Trade and Industry

22 April 1977 35p

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European community news
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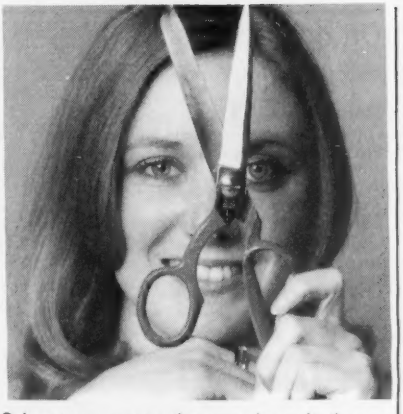
Trade and Industry

22 April 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Scissors are among the many items in the expanded four-monthly version of the wholesale price indices published this week. Scissors for left-handed people, like the pair illustrated, were introduced by Ernest Wright and Son Ltd, Sheffield, eight years ago and are now exported to nearly 50 countries.

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ABC

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

North-east HQ for British Shipbuilders

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 20 April that the headquarters of British Shipbuilders will be in the north-east of England at a location to be decided by the new corporation. In addition to its north-east headquarters, the newly-formed corporation will have permanent premises in London for marketing purposes which will be used by the corporation pending the progressive build-up of its north-eastern headquarters.

Tougher action on prices

Predictions he made last year on price increases were holding good, said Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on Granada TV's *Reports Politics* on Monday. Price increases were fluctuating around the figure of 16 per cent per year and would remain at that level for a month or two before they started to improve.

In response to questions on the freezing of prices, Mr Hattersley explained that there would be powers in his new prices bill, if it was passed, to freeze specific prices. He stressed that the government would not be able to freeze everything because some price increases were unavoidable. Some prices were the result of import prices and of seasonal fluctuations. If prices were just frozen the outcome for many companies would be certain bankruptcy; for others, an inability to invest and therefore a reduction in the number of people employed in this country.

Under the new bill, the Price Commission would be able to investigate proposed price increases, and would be able to recommend that price increases were not allowed. In fact, the price of any commodity the commission cared to examine, including food, could be frozen for up to a year.

Mr Hattersley expressed the hope that price increases could be brought down to 12 or 13 per cent per annum by Christmas. It was recognised, he said, that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction that prices had risen at a time of wage restraint. That prices were being taken very seriously was indicated by his wish to introduce a bill with the quite new power to freeze prices.

National Coal Board's plan 2000

'We are planning a new coal industry', Sir Derek Ezra, National Coal Board chairman, told the Fuel Luncheon Club on Tuesday. By the year 2000 the NCB wants two-thirds of the industry's capacity to be new or reconstructed, producing coal by new methods, at new levels of efficiency and used in new ways – particularly as a source of oil, gas and chemicals. Between £350 and £400 million would need to be invested every year between now and the end of the century.

Great importance was attached to coal as a complementary and not a competitive fuel – and Britain had sufficient coal reserves to last at least 300 years at present levels of mining. Sir Derek explained that the preservation of a large, efficient coal industry would not only give Britain the chance to use its valuable but limited oil and natural gas reserves to the maximum benefit, but would also safeguard the longer-term position. He pointed out that decisions had to be taken soon because of the long lead times for energy investment. It took about 10 years to plan and develop a new coalfield and about seven years to complete a major power station, he said.

OVERSEAS

Dell speaks on UK-Japan trade

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, in a major speech in Toyko on 18 April, criticised Japan's protective trading policies. He urged the Japanese to import more manufactured goods from Britain and so provide equal trading opportunities.

See page 113.

Saudi Arabian minister in Britain

Saudi Arabian Minister of Telegraphs, Posts and Telephones, Dr Alawi Darwish Kayyal, arrived in Britain on Monday (18 April) at the invitation of Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State Department of Industry, as an official guest of the government.

The purpose of his five-day visit, was to see some of the latest developments in telecommunications by the Post Office and the principal manufacturers and consultants in the UK. He also visited a mechanised postal sorting office.

The minister was accompanied by Dr Ibrahim Ahmed Obeid, Deputy Minister for Telegraphs and Telex, and Samir Banajah, Director General for Posts.

Dr Kayyal (left) with Mr Kaufman and Saudi Arabia's ambassador Sheikh Faisal Alhegelan (right) on Monday.

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IDB representatives visit DoT

Four representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) arrived in London on 18 April for a series of meetings with government and industry.

The representatives, Guillermo Moore, James Lynn, Guillermo Villaveces and Robert Puttemans, attended a briefing session with Department of Trade officials at Export House before meeting some 32 representatives of 26 UK firms in the fields of engineering, consultancy, education, building, manufacturing and publishing.

At the meeting Mr Moore and Mr Lynn defined fully the bank's policy, programming missions, evaluation of projects/loans, at initial and final stages, with special emphasis on all the factors which are taken into consideration before and after loans are granted to various countries in Latin America.

TECHNOLOGY

Moscow research agreement

Anglo-Soviet co-operation in surface measurement research was advanced recently in Moscow when a protocol was signed between Rank Taylor Hobson, precision instrument manufacturers, and Gosstandart, the USSR state committee for standards and measurement.

The protocol was signed at a meeting of the specialists in accordance with an earlier protocol on scientific and technical co-operation signed in Moscow on 31 October 1974. During 10 days of meetings, problems of mutual interest were discussed including ISO international standards. A programme of investigations into various aspects of surface measurement and evaluation was agreed, particular emphasis being placed on the mathematical approach to surface assessment.

Rank Taylor Hobson has supplied surface texture, roundness and straightness measuring instruments and optical metrology instruments to the USSR and east European countries for many years. Most recent purchase includes the latest Talycenta computerised form measuring system with the Talydata visual display unit.

Not all at sea

Monitoring and simulation of a ship's motion when transporting bulk mineral cargoes is the subject of 'Not all at sea', a film released this week. The film will be of interest to those involved in the mining, processing, handling and transportation of minerals.

'Not all at sea' illustrates the facilities offered by the Warren Spring Laboratory for the monitoring and simulation of surface and sub-sea conditions, describes their use in test applications for materials handling, concentration processes, waste-disposal equipment, and behaviour and stability of bulk mineral cargoes transported at sea. The calibration of motion monitoring systems on the laboratory's motion simulators and a system in use on a dredger in the English Channel are featured.

The film was produced by the Central Office of Information for Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Industry and is available through the Central Film Library, Government Buildings, Bromyard Avenue, London W3 7JB.

EUROPE

IMF increase in resources

At their meeting in Luxembourg on 18 April, the council of EEC finance ministers agreed that the IMF should have a significant increase in its total resources.

Making the announcement as chairman of the council, Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that this had been agreed so that the IMF could help to ensure that the adjustment process so far as the countries with persistent deficits were concerned took place at a speed which was not damaging to their social and political stability.

Mr Healey said that the council also discussed IMF proposals for a new special facility to which the surplus countries would contribute; a general increase in IMF quotas; and proposals made by the Belgian Finance Minister for strengthening the appeal and improving the role of SDRs in the international monetary system. The council, he said, had agreed on priorities for these proposals.

Owen chairs London meeting

Foreign ministers of EEC member states held a political co-operation meeting in London on 18 April. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, David Owen, took the chair.

Among the subjects discussed were the Belgrade Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which is to review the Helsinki Final Act, the Middle East, Cyprus and Africa.

STATISTICS

UK current account for March

In March the current account of the UK balance of payments had an estimated deficit of £12 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £232 million, seasonally adjusted, but the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £220 million.

See page 132.

David Owen, presiding during the meeting of EEC foreign ministers at Lancaster House on Monday.

Movement of materials

The technology of materials and mechanical handling will be the subject of a special *Trade and Industry* survey on 13 May. It will coincide with Movement 77, the exhibition being held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from 16 to 21 May.

New developments and sources of information and advice for industry in the materials and mechanical handling field will be covered, plus the activities of the Department of Industry, including the work being carried out in the department's laboratories and other organisations supported by the department.

If you wish to advertise in this feature, please contact Mike White on 01-242 6264 as soon as possible.

Home news

Changes in assisted areas

'The promotion of investment and employment in the assisted areas depends to a great extent on the attraction of potentially mobile investment to these areas. The more extensive are the assisted areas, the less prospect there is of attracting sufficient mobile investment to improve all their economies significantly,' said Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, in announcing changes in assisted areas on 14 April.

The Local Employment Act 1972 as amended by the Industry Act 1972 specifies that in designating the assisted areas the secretary of state shall have regard to 'all the circumstances actual and expected, including the state of employment and unemployment, population changes, migration and the objectives of regional policy'.

Mr Varley explained, 'In considering individual applications for changes I have therefore to consider the effect of any change on the assisted areas as a whole, and on the UK as a whole. As a result I have combined my consideration of the applications for upgrading with a study of the existing assisted areas in order to determine whether there are any areas which no longer need assistance on the scale hitherto provided because of their record of employment and unemployment, the actual numbers unemployed, and their economic development and general character. I have also had regard to the potential for development of the various areas concerned.'

His four decisions on a number of applications for changes in the assisted areas and representations on behalf of particular areas for changes in their status are as follows:

He is not satisfied that he would be justified in including any further areas within the assisted areas;

Of the existing intermediate areas the following should be upgraded and designated as development areas – the Hull travel-to-work area, the Grimsby employment office area, and the Shotton travel-to-work area;

Of the existing development areas the following should be upgraded and designated as special development areas – the Lanark, Cumnock, Kilbirnie, Dundee and Arbroath employment office areas;

Of the existing development areas the following should be downgraded and become intermediate areas – the Aberdeen travel-to-work area, Malton, Northallerton, Pickering, Richmond and Thirsk.

An order implementing these changes has been laid before the House of Commons. The upgradings came into force on 14 April 1977. The downgrading will take effect on 1 April 1978. A statutory instrument has also been made providing for consequential changes in the administration of industrial development certificates.

Regional development grants are affected by the changes in status within the assisted areas. In the new special development areas, regional development grants become payable on plant, machinery and buildings at a rate of 22 per cent instead of 20 per cent. Regional development grants become payable towards qualifying expenditure on plant and machinery, as well as industrial buildings, at a rate of 20 per cent in the new development areas.

Regional development grants will not be payable in the new intermediate areas on plant and machinery provided after 1 April 1978 unless expenditure has been defrayed before 14 April 1977. As the areas concerned remain intermediate areas, regional development grants on industrial buildings and regional selective assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 will continue to be available, and the areas will continue to be eligible for inclusion in the government's factory building programme.

The order contains special provisions regarding projects in the new special development and development areas which have already received offers of selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972. Premises on which there are such projects will not qualify for the higher rate of regional development grants in the case of the new special development areas, or for regional development grants on plant and machinery in the case of the new development areas, unless the acceptance of the offer of selective financial assistance is withdrawn and any money already paid is refunded. Companies will, thus, in effect, have a choice between the existing offer of selective assistance and the higher entitlement to regional development grant arising from upgrading of the area.

The industrial development certificates regulations make two changes in the present position. With immediate effect, IDCs are not required in the new development areas (IDCs are already not required in the new special development areas). With effect from 1 April 1978, IDCs will be required in the new intermediate areas of North Yorkshire and North-East Scotland. IDCs are required to accompany applications for planning permission for creation of new industrial floor space.

Grants for manufacturers of printing and textile machinery

The form of assistance available for projects for the design, development and launching of new machinery, under the arrangements introduced in August 1976 for assisting the textile machinery and printing machinery industries is changed from a concessionary loan of up to 50 per cent of eligible costs (or the equivalent in interest relief grants) to a straightforward grant of 20 per cent of eligible costs. These new arrangements will apply to applications at present being considered by the Department of Industry.

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 13 August 1976 that selective assistance would be made available under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 to textile and printing machinery manufacturers to develop new products, improve production facilities, rationalise existing product ranges and improve management techniques. £20 million is available for textile machinery manufacturers and £15 million for printing machinery manufacturers. The closing date for applications is 31 December 1977.

Official appointments

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments:

Gas consumer councils Councillor Mrs M. Schofield to be a member of the North Thames Gas Consumers' Council until 30 April 1979.

Councillors J. H. Richmond and J. McGarr to be members of the North Eastern Gas Consumers' Council until 28 February 1979.

Post Office Users' National Council Mrs M. Donaghy from Holywood, a member of the Executive of the Northern Ireland Council of Social Service, Mr J. A. Jones, from Knighton, a member of the Radnor County Old People's Welfare Committee, the Radnorshire Rural Community Council, the Radnor Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Radnor POAC, and Mr R. Sanderson from Hemel Hempstead, a national officer of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has made the following appointment:

Chairman, advisory committee for the government's non-ferrous industry assistance scheme John W. Ray, managing director, Chloride Europe Ltd.

Trade Indemnity

Points from Mr. K. M. Bevins' Statement to Shareholders

Results and Dividend

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1976 show that the 1974 Underwriting Account, which was closed on that date, produced an underwriting profit of £1,325,557, which in view of the economic difficulties which persisted throughout much of its three-year term is very satisfactory. After adding investment income of £772,170 and charging tax of £1,046,000, the net profit carried down is £1,051,727. A final dividend of 4.76930p per share is recommended which, with the interim dividend, is the maximum for the year permitted by Government legislation.

Underwriting Accounts

Premiums written on the 1975 Account continued to run well ahead of 1974 Account at the same stage, whilst premiums written on the 1976 Account in its first year showed an increase on 1975 Account. Claims remained at a relatively high level on both the 1975 and 1976 Accounts.

In 1976 premiums written on all Accounts were £14,791,665 (1975 – £12,949,647) to which Australia contributed £1,414,146.

General

As in previous years, economic developments at home and abroad were fully reflected in our own experience. The general stagnation in business activity led to a fall in the volume of turnover insured under many of our policies. This was, however, more than offset by higher prices, particularly in those trades having a large import content. Overall, the value of transactions insured by the Company in London and Melbourne increased by 18 per cent to £7,687 million.

As expected, business failures in 1976 continued at a high level and altogether we were involved in 2,349 failures compared with 2,328 in 1975. On the debt collection side of our activities, with corporate liquidity remaining high the number of cases involved fell from 8,352 to 6,896. Nevertheless, because the individual amounts rose, the total notified, at approximately £6 million, was about the same as last year.

The present state of corporate liquidity is closely linked to the depressed level of business activity over the last two years, and in particular to the fact that stocks have been kept at exceptionally low levels. For many companies, any economic revival must bring sharply into focus the question of their ability to finance it, especially at current low levels of profitability. Any upturn in the economy will bring pressures on company liquidity as stocks and other items have to be replenished. It is perhaps not surprising that some of the more spectacular business failures in the past have occurred during the early stages of economic recovery. There is clear evidence of this to be found in our own experience, notably in 1971 and in more recent events in Europe.

Conclusion

It seems likely that claims and collections will remain at high levels in 1977. At the same time, with the rising cost of commodities and raw materials working its way through the economic system, higher output prices are likely to boost our insured turnover and hence premium income, with increased production giving an additional fillip later in the year. I therefore anticipate that our U.K. business in 1977 will make a greater contribution to our overall income than it did in 1976 and that earnings from Australia and inwards reinsurances will continue to grow.

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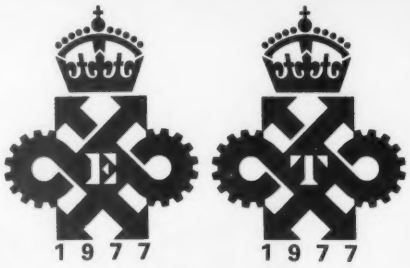
The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology 1977



The Queen's Award for Export Achievement, 1977

One hundred and twenty-five British firms have won Queen's Awards for Export and Technology this year – the largest number since the scheme began in 1966. There are 106 awards for export achievement and 19 for technological achievement. The recipients represent a wide spread of industrial and commercial activity and size of company: Scotland, Wales and all regions of England are represented.

Criteria

The Queen's Award for Export Achievement is granted for: 'A substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations. Account will be taken of any special market factors described in the application. Applicants for the award will be expected to explain the basis of the achievement (eg improved marketing organisation or new initiative to cater for export markets) and this will be taken into consideration. Export earnings considered will include receipts by the applicant unit in this country from the export of goods produced in this country, and the provision of services to non-residents. Account will be taken of the overseas expenses incurred other than marketing expenses. Income from profits (after overseas tax) remitted to this country from the applicant unit's direct investments in its overseas branches, subsidiaries or associates in the same general line of business will be taken into account, but not receipts from profits on other overseas investments or by interest on overseas loans or credits.' The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement is made for: 'A significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities.'

The awards

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology differ from personal honours in that they are given to the industrial unit as a whole – management and employees working as a team. Units holding an award are entitled to fly the appropriate award flag and to display the emblem on their letterheadings, in advertising, on the packaging of goods produced in this country, on the goods themselves, and on articles used by employees such as lapel badges, neck-ties, cuff-links and brooches.

An award is held for a period of five years – thus the awards made on 21 April 1972 expire on 20 April 1977. A holder of an award can apply for consideration in subsequent years and receive a further award in respect of new outstanding achievement beyond that recognised by the previous award. This year 27 awards for Export Achievement and three awards for Technological Achievement are made to units holding current awards granted in previous years.

Presentation ceremonies

The awards are formally conferred by a grant of appointment, and are symbolised by a representation of the appropriate emblem cast in stainless steel and encapsulated in a transparent acrylic block. Presentations will be made on behalf of the Queen by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants during the coming months. The presentation ceremonies are normally held locally (eg at the unit's main factory or place of business) so that as many as possible of those who have contributed to the outstanding achievements can be present; experience has shown that these ceremonies are a great success.

Reception at Buckingham Palace

Later in the year the Queen will give a reception at Buckingham Palace to which three representatives of each firm will be invited, as an additional way of marking the achievement of winners of The Queen's Awards. The reception for the 1976 winners took place in December of that year.

Notes

The Queen's Award to Industry was instituted by royal warrant in 1965 in accordance with the recommendations of a committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh, and reviewed in 1970 by a committee chaired by Lord McFadzean. Acceptance of the recommendations of the 1975 review committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh resulted in the name of the scheme being changed to 'The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology' with separate awards instituted for outstanding achievement in each field.

The awards are made by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, who is assisted by an advisory committee comprising:

Sir Douglas Allen (chairman), head of the Home Civil Service;
John E. Bolton, – ;
Lord Briginshaw, representing the Trades Union Congress;
Sir Peter Carey, permanent secretary, Department of Industry;
Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman, British Overseas Trade Board;
Sir Arnold Lindley, representing the Council of Engineering Institutions;
Lord Nelson of Stafford, – ;
Sir Francis Sandilands, chairman, Committee on Invisible Exports;
Sir Peter Thorton, Permanent secretary, Department of Trade;
Lord Watkinson, president, Confederation of British Industry.

The advisory committee is served by two subordinate committees of civil servants (including specialists); one examines applications for the export award, the other applications for the technology award.

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer her award for export achievement in 1977 upon the following industrial units.

Aaro Caravan Co Ltd
The Angus Irrigation Unit of the Angus Fire Armour Division of George Angus and Co Ltd
The Construction Products Division of Armco Ltd
Laura Ashley Ltd
Austin and Pickersgill Ltd
BICC Telecommunication Cables Ltd
The Biscuit Division of Baker Perkins Ltd
Banyard Metalheat Ltd
T. T. Boughton and Sons Ltd
Bowling Reproductions
C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings Ltd
The Military Aircraft Division of British Aircraft Corporation Ltd
British Airways Board
British Films Ltd
British Steel Corporation (Overseas Services) Ltd
John Brown Engineering (Clydebank) Ltd
Brush Switchgear Ltd
C-Power (Marine) Ltd
Carreras Rothmans Ltd
Cohen Bros (Electrical) Ltd
Coles Cranes Ltd
Conder Buildings Overseas Ltd
Coronet EM Ltd
Crosrol Ltd
Darlington and Simpson Rolling Mills Ltd
Davy-Loewy Ltd
Thomas De La Rue and Co Ltd
Derwent Publications Ltd
Dimo International Ltd
EMI Medical Ltd
Escol Products Ltd
Ethicon Ltd
Exploration and Production Services (North Sea) Ltd
The Military Products Division of Fairey Engineering Ltd
Fletcher and Stewart Ltd
Foster Wheeler Ltd
GEC Turbine Generators Ltd
A. Gallenkamp and Co Ltd

Goodenough Pumps Ltd
Graff Diamonds Ltd
Sir William Halcrow and Partners
John Harvey and Sons Ltd
Hattersley Newman Hender Ltd
Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering Ltd
Hunting Surveys and Consultants Ltd
IBIS Medical Equipment and Supplies Ltd
Inchcape and Co Ltd
Inductron Ltd
The International Marine Coatings Division of The International Paint Co Ltd
Dick James Music Ltd
Kandya Meredew Ltd
Kennedy and Donkin
Lesney Products and Co Ltd
London American Finance Corporation Ltd
Kenneth Mackenzie Holdings Ltd
L. H. Mackerness Ltd
Marconi Instruments Ltd
The Marconi International Marine Co Ltd
Marks and Spencer Ltd
Martin-Black Ltd
Albert Martin Knitwear Ltd
May and Baker Ltd
Thomas Meadows and Co Ltd
Michelin Tyre Co Ltd
The Semiconductor Products Division of Motorola Ltd
Geo. Moulton Successors Ltd
North Devon Meat Ltd
Arthur F. Organ (Packaging Machinery) Co Ltd
Pandrol Ltd
Josiah Parkes and Sons Ltd
The Management Consultancy Firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co
Petbow Ltd
Petrocarbon Developments Ltd
The Phoenix Engineering Co Ltd
Platt, Saco Lowell Ltd
The Plessey Navaids Division of Plessey Electronic Systems Ltd
Polaroid (UK) Ltd
Portals Holdings Ltd
Quest Automation Ltd
Racal-Tacticom Ltd
Record Ridgway Ltd
P. A. Richterich and Co Ltd
John Robson (Shipley) Ltd
Rohm and Haas (UK) Ltd
The Royal Mint
Ruston Gas Turbines Ltd
Seltrust Engineering Ltd
TI Simplex (Fans and Ballasts) Ltd
Simplon Interline Trading Co Ltd
The Submarine Systems Division of Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd
Stelmo Ltd
Thos. Storey (Engineers) Ltd
TAC Construction Materials Ltd
Taylor Woodrow International Ltd
Tecquipment Ltd
Thermal Syndicate Ltd
The British Timken Division of The Timken Company
R Twining and Co Ltd
United Towing Ltd
Vosper Thornycroft Ltd
Enoch Wedgwood (Tunstall) Ltd
Westerly Marine Construction Ltd
Sir Bruce White, Wolfe Barry and Partners
Whitehead Harbormaster Ltd
The Engineering Division of Wilkinson Sword Ltd
George Wimpey and Co Ltd

The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement, 1977

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer her award for technological achievement in 1977 upon the following industrial units.

Henry Cooke Ltd
The Hersham Division of Decca Radar Ltd
EMI-MEC Ltd
The Agrochemical Division of Fisons Ltd
The Plant Protection Division of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd
Johnson Matthey Research Centre
Land and Marine Engineering Ltd
The Electrical Division of Lucas Aerospace Ltd
Malvern Instruments Ltd
Marconi Instruments Ltd
Marconi Space and Defence Systems Ltd
Marwin Cutting Tools Ltd
The Mining Research and Development Establishment of the National Coal Board
The National Vegetable Research Station
Paxman Diesels Ltd
Pitcraft Ltd
Railko Ltd
Ernest Scragg and Sons Ltd
Sorex (London) Ltd

Industrial publicity

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest regional office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277 NTYNE).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, New Station Street, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex 55472 COI DOE – G).

East Midland: Mr A. Waller, Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW (Tel: 0602 56181 – Telex 37572 COINOT – G)

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LL (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187 COICAM – G).

London & South Eastern*: Mr A. J. Goodson, St Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 COI FORLANG LDN, message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 580463 – Telex 848216 CENTROFORM RDG).

South Western: Mr P. D. Yorke, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203 COIBSL – G).

West Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Middle Way, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 337576 COIBHAM).

North Western: Mr P. B. Porter, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830 CENTROFORM MCHR).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-928 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

Moneylenders Acts 1900 to 1927

Entries in these lists are in alphabetical order according to the first initial letter of the title.

The following companies held orders of exemption valid at 31 March 1977 issued under section 6(e) of the Moneylenders Act 1900.

A. Booth (Estates) Ltd, Afforestation Finance Ltd, Agricultural Supplies (Cambridge) Ltd, Airedale Investment Ltd, Alex Lawrie Factors Ltd, ANZ Overseas Finance Ltd, Ashbrae Finance (UK) Ltd, Austin Morris Group Facilities Ltd

B. A. Finance Ltd, B. S. G. Finance Ltd, Baldrene Ltd, Banca Commerciale Italiana Ltd, Barclays Export and Finance Co Ltd, Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd, Beamtenheimstattenwerk Gemeinnutzige Bausparkasse Fur Den Offentlichen Dienst Gesellschaft Mit Beschranker Haftung, Bentworth Trust Ltd, Book Trade Improvement Ltd, British Maritime Trust Ltd, Bucks Land and Building Co Ltd, Builders and General Mortgage Co Ltd, (The), B. W. Trade Facilities Ltd, Byas Mosley (Life and Pensions) Ltd

CDFC (Ceylon) Ltd, CDFC International Ltd, CDFC (Malaysia) Ltd, Cameron Fund Ltd, (The), Canadian Ashland Finance (UK) Ltd, Capital Development Co Ltd, Chrysler Wholesale Ltd, Ciba Geigy (GFS) Ltd, CIN Industrial Finance Ltd, Circle and Piotrkow Provident and Investment Society Ltd, City and Colonial Trust Ltd, Claymore Field (Finance) Ltd, Commerce International Trust Ltd, Commonwealth Development Finance Co Ltd, Contemporary Finance Co Ltd, Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas, C. P. Choularton Sons and Partners Ltd

Dao Heng Bank Ltd, D. F. J. Charles Ltd, Deutsche Bank (UK) Finance Ltd, Development Finance International Ltd, Diaome Ltd, Dominion Charter Merchant Trust Ltd, Dorset, Somerset and Wilts Investment Society Ltd, Dreghorn Holdings Ltd, Dunlop Investments Ltd, Dunlop Securities Ltd

Efdum Securities Ltd, Equipment Credit Ltd

Faircliffe Finance Co Ltd, (The), Farnworth Finance Facilities Ltd, Fenlock Investments, Finance Corporation for Industry Ltd, Finfur Ltd, First Canadian Financial Services (UK), First Guarantee Trust Co Ltd, First National Housing Trust Ltd, Ford Financial Trust Ltd, Ford Motor Credit Co Ltd, F. W. Developments Ltd

GEC Investments Ltd, Gee and Watson (Welfare and Benevolent) Ltd, General Reversionary and Investment Co Ltd, Glenniffer Finance Corporation Ltd, Grand Metropolitan (Finance) Ltd, Guardian Mortgage Co Ltd

Henderson Administration Ltd, Heritable Securities and Mortgage Investment Association Ltd, (The), Hobbart Properties Ltd, Hoeschst Finance Ltd, Hogarth Finance Ltd, Home and Country Properties Ltd

Independent Factors Ltd, Indochine Finance (UK) Ltd, Insurance Export Finance Co Ltd, I. S. Blomfield Ltd, Ivor Hill (Investments) Ltd

J. F. Nash Finance Ltd, J. P. Morgan Interfunding Corporation, John Laing Construction (Finance) Ltd, Jubilee Money Society Ltd

Kingston Financial Service (Clyde) Ltd

Lancashire and Yorkshire Reversionary Interest Co Ltd, Langersal Ltd, Langham Life Finance Ltd, Law Reversionary Interest Society Ltd, (The), Lington Holdings Ltd, Liverpool Reversionary Co Ltd, (The), L. L. & E. Finance (GB) Ltd, Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd, London Mercantile Finance Ltd, London Mercantile Guarantee Ltd, London and Provincial Investments Ltd, Lyle Finance International Ltd

Mall Trust Corporation Ltd, Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd, Master Bakers and Confectioners Finance Co Ltd, Maybells Finance Ltd, Merban Ltd, Methodist Chapel Aid Association Ltd, Midland Industries (Finance) Ltd, Millbank Development Services Ltd, MIT Securities Ltd, Modern Investments Ltd

National and Commercial Development Capital Ltd, National Film Finance Consortium Ltd, New York London Trustee Co Ltd, Niagara Financial Services Ltd

Oakmere Finance Ltd, Ogden Street Estate Ltd, Ordinto Investments Ltd

Pan American Employees Mutual Association Ltd, Paribas Finance Ltd, Phoenix Redcliffe Ltd, Piper Finance Ltd, Pleasure Heating Finance and Developments Ltd, Property Investment and Finance (Developments) Ltd

Queen Street Trust Ltd

Raleigh Industries (Gradual Payments) Ltd, Rediffusion Finance Ltd, RIB Eastern Ltd, Rio Tinto Finance and Exploration Ltd, RMC Finance Ltd, Robert Fleming and Co Ltd, Roitex Ltd

SCR Finance Ltd, St James's Development Trust Ltd, St Paul's Guarantee Corporation Ltd, Sale Tilney (Finance) Ltd, Scottish Central Finance Ltd, Scottish and European Finance Ltd, Selap Ltd, Selection Trust Ltd, Selective Guaranty Ltd, Ship Mortgage Finance Co Ltd, Small Industries Council for Rural Areas of Scotland, South Birmingham Savings Society Ltd, Southsea Mortgage and Investment Co Ltd, Standard Guarantee Ltd, Stewart Salmon and Co Ltd, Swiss Bank Corporation (International) Ltd

TKM Credit Corporation Ltd, TKM Factors Ltd, Thomson North Sea Finance Co Ltd, Toronto Dominion Bank Investment (UK) Ltd, Treesford Securities Ltd, TWA United Kingdom Credit Union Employees Ltd

UDT International Finance Ltd, UKF Fertilisers Ltd

Warbridge Investment Co Ltd, Wates Ltd, Wessex Finance Corporation Ltd, West End Provident and Investment Society Ltd, Western Discount Co Ltd, Westminster House and Land Investment Co Ltd, Whitehall Securities Corporation Ltd, Wilkinson Finance Ltd

Yelverton Finance (London) Ltd, Yorkshire Bank Finance Ltd

The following persons held certificates, valid at 31 March 1977 under section 123 of the Companies Act 1967, to the effect that they had satisfied the Department of Trade that they could properly be treated for the purposes of the Moneylenders Acts 1900 to 1927 as being persons bona fide carrying on the business of banking.

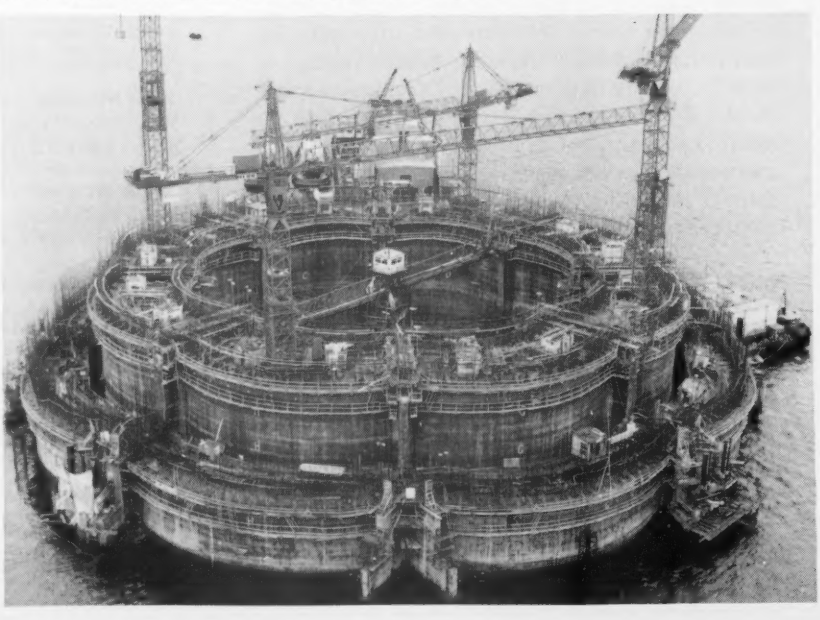
African Continental Bank Ltd, Allied Bank International, Amex Bank Ltd, Anglo-Continental Trust Ltd (in liquidation), Anglo-Eastern Bank Ltd

Banco do Estado de Sao Paulo SA, Bank of Europe Ltd, Bank Fur Gemeinwirtschaft AG, Bank Hapoalim BM, Bank of New Providence Ltd, Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Ltd, Bank of Scotland Finance Co Ltd, Bank of Tokyo Trust Co, (The), Barclays Bank Trust Co Ltd, Barclays Western Bank Ltd, Barnett, Christie Ltd, Bear Securities Ltd, Beverley Acceptances Ltd, Boston Trust and Savings Ltd, Bowmaker Ltd, Bremar Holdings Ltd, Brook Securities and Co Ltd, Brown Harriman and International Banks Ltd, Burlington Investments Ltd, Burston Finance Ltd (in liquidation)

Cannon Street Acceptances Ltd (in liquidation), Capitol Consumer and Commercial Finance Ltd, C. E. Coates and Co Ltd, Cedar Holdings Ltd, Central Trustee Savings Bank Ltd, Chancery Trust Ltd, Chase Manhattan Ltd, Citibank Trust Ltd, Citicorp International Bank Ltd, Cleveland Guaranty Ltd, Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd, Commercial Bank of Malawi Ltd, Commercial Bank of Wales Ltd, Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia, Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia, Concorde Trust Ltd, Consolidated Credits and Discounts Ltd, Co-operative Commercial Bank Ltd, Copleys Bank Ltd, Corinthian

Ninian platform takes shape

Securely anchored in the deep water of Loch Carron in the Scottish Highlands, the reinforced concrete bulk of the central oil production platform for the Ninian field in the North Sea is growing steadily. When completed by Howard Doris Ltd for Chevron Petroleum in the summer of this year, the 400,000-tonne platform will be the world's largest concrete gravity structure. After completion of the superstructure at the present site, the platform will be towed to the Inner Sound of Raasay in north-west Scotland, where it will be ballasted low in the water for the installation of the 5,500-tonne steel deck. This will support the control modules, accommodation and facilities for the 120-man crew, together with a large helicopter pad. The completed platform will then be towed 430 nautical miles to the Ninian field, north-east of the Shetland Islands.



Securities Ltd, Credit Suisse White Weld Ltd, Credito Italiano SpA, Cripps Warburg Ltd

David Samuel Trust Ltd (in liquidation), Dawnay Day and Co Ltd, Drayton Corporation Ltd, Duboff Brothers Ltd, Dunbar and Co Ltd

Eagil Trust Co Ltd, Edward Bates and Sons Ltd, E. S. Schwab and Co Ltd, European Brazilian Bank Ltd

First Chicago Ltd, First Fortune Ltd, First International Bancshares Ltd, First London Securities Ltd, First Maryland Ltd, First National Bank in Dallas, First National Finance Corporation Ltd, First National Securities Ltd

G. R. Dawes and Co Ltd, G. T. Whyte and Co Ltd (in liquidation), Goode Durrant Trust Ltd, Gray Dawes and Co Ltd, Gresham Trust Ltd, Greyhound Guaranty Ltd, Grindlays Bank (Scotland) Ltd

Havana International Bank Ltd, Henry Ansbacher and Co Ltd, Heritable and General Investment Bank Ltd, HFC Trust Ltd, Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd, Hume Corporation Ltd

Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd, (The), Industrial Bank of Scotland Ltd, Investitions-Und Handels-Bank AG, Iran Overseas Investment Bank Ltd, Italian International Bank Ltd

Jacobs Kroll and Co Ltd (in liquidation), Japan International Bank Ltd, Julian S. Hodge and Co Ltd, Julius Baer International Ltd

Knowsley and Co Ltd

Lloyds Associated Banking Co Ltd, Lloyds and Scottish Trust Ltd, Lombard North Central Ltd, London and County Securities Ltd (in liquidation), London and European Finance and Investment Ltd, London Capital Securities Ltd, London Mercantile Corporation Ltd

Medens Trust Ltd, Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd, Mitsubishi Bank Ltd, (The)

National Commercial Bank Ltd, National Union Bank Ltd, N. H. Woolley and Co Ltd, Nordic Bank Ltd, North Carolina National Bank, Northern Commercial Trust Ltd, Northern Trust Co, (The), Norwich General Trust Ltd

P. S. Refson and Co Ltd, People's Bank Ltd, (The), Philipp Brothers and Joseph Ltd

Raphael, Robinson and Glyn, Red Dragon Securities Ltd, Republic National Bank of Dallas, Republic National Bank of New York, Robert Fraser and Partners Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada Trust Corporation Ltd, (The), Royal Trust Company of Canada, (The)

Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd, St Margarets Finance Ltd, Schlesinger Ltd, Security Trust Company Ltd, Societe Generale (France) Bank Ltd, Standard Chartered Merchant Bank Ltd, Sterling Credit Ltd, Sterling Industrial Securities Ltd

Thames Guaranty Ltd (in liquidation), Trade Development Bank, Trucanda Trusts Ltd, Twentieth Century Banking Corporation Ltd

United Dominions Trust Ltd, United International Bank Ltd

Vavasseur Trust Co Ltd, (The), Vernons Trust Corporation

Wallace Brothers Bank Ltd, Wells Fargo Ltd, Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co Ltd, Williams, Glyn and Co, Wintrust Securities Ltd

Protection of Depositors Act 1963

The following companies are recognised by the Secretary of State for Trade as banking or discount companies for the purposes of the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended) as at 31 March 1977. Companies marked with an asterisk are also recognised as banking or discount companies for the purposes of schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1948 (as amended).

*Alexanders Discount Co Ltd, Algemene Bank Nederland NV, *Allen, Harvey and Ross Ltd, Allied Bank International, Allied Irish Banks Ltd, *American Express International Banking Corporation, Amex Bank Ltd, *Anthony Gibbs Holdings Ltd, *A. P. Bank Ltd, *Arbuthnot Latham and Co Ltd, *Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd

Banca Commerciale Italiana SpA, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA, *Banco de Bilbao, *Banco de Santander, Banco do Brasil SA, *Banco Espanol en Londres SA, Bank Hapoalim BM, *Bank Leumi (UK) Ltd, Bank Melli Iran, *Bank of Adelaide, (The), Bank of America International Ltd, *Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, *Bank of Cyprus (London) Ltd, *Bank of India, Bank of Ireland, *Bank of London and South America Ltd, *Bank of Montreal, *Bank of New South Wales, *Bank of New Zealand, *Bank of Nova Scotia, (The), Bank of Scotland, Bank of Scotland Finance Co Ltd, *Bank of Tokyo Ltd, (The), *Bankers Trust Co, *Banque Belge Ltd, *Banque Belgo-Zairoise SA, *Banque de L'Indochine et de Suez, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, SA, *Banque de Suez (UK) Ltd, *Banque Nationale de Paris Ltd, *Banque pour le Commerce Continental, Barclays Bank Ltd, *Barclays Bank International Ltd, Barclays Merchant Bank Ltd, *Baring Brothers and Co Ltd, *Brandts Ltd, *British Bank of the Middle East, (The), *Brown, Shipley and Co Ltd

*Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, *Cater Ryder and Co Ltd, Central Bank of India, *Charterhouse, Japhet Ltd, *Chase Manhattan Bank, NA, (The), Chemical Bank, *C. Hoare and Co, *Citibank NA, City National Bank of Detroit, *Clive Discount Co Ltd, Clydesdale Bank Ltd, Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd, *Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd, (The), *Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd, (The), *Commercial Bank of the Near East Ltd, (The), Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, Co-operative Bank Ltd, County Bank Ltd, Coutts and Co, Coutts Finance Co, *Credit Industriel et Commercial, *Credit Lyonnais, Credito Italiano SpA, Crocker National Bank

Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd, Daiwa Bank Ltd, (The), Detroit Bank and Trust Co (The), Dow Banking Corporation

European Banking Co Ltd, European Brazilian Bank Ltd

*First National Bank of Boston, *First National Bank of Chicago, (The), First Pennsylvania Bank NA, First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee, Forward Trust Ltd, Fuji Bank Ltd, (The)

*Gerrard and National Discount Co Ltd, *Gillett Brothers Discount Co Ltd, Girard Trust Bank, Gray Dawes and Co Ltd, *Grindlays Bank Ltd, *Guiness Mahon and Co Ltd

*Habib Bank Ltd, *Hambros Bank Ltd, Harris Trust and Savings Bank, *Hill, Samuel and Co Ltd, *Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, (The)

International Commercial Bank Ltd, *International Westminster Bank Ltd, *Ionian Bank Ltd, Irving Trust Co, Italian International Bank Ltd

Japan International Bank Ltd, *Jessel, Toynbee and Co Ltd, *J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co Ltd, Johnson Matthey Bankers Ltd, Julian S. Hodge and Co Ltd, Julius Baer International Ltd

*Keyser Ullmann Ltd, *King and Shaxson Ltd, *Kleinwort Benson Ltd

*Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd, *Leopold Joseph and Sons Ltd, *Lewis's Bank Ltd, Lloyds Associated Banking Co Ltd, Lloyds Bank Ltd, *Lloyds Bank International Ltd, *Lloyds Bank International (France) Ltd, Lombard North Central Ltd, London and Continental Bankers Ltd, London Multinational Bank Ltd

*Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co, Marine Midland Bank, *Mellon Bank NA, *Mercantile Bank Ltd, Mercantile Credit Co Ltd, Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd, Midland Bank Ltd, *Midland and International Banks Ltd, Mitsui Bank Ltd, *Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd, *Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, *Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd

*National Bank of Australasia Ltd, (The), National Bank of Detroit, *National Bank of Greece SA, *National Bank of New Zealand Ltd, (The), *National Commercial and Glyns Ltd, National Westminster Bank Ltd, *Nedbank Ltd, *N. M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd, Nordic Bank Ltd, Northern Trust Company of Chicago

Orion Bank Ltd, *Ottoman Bank

*Rea Brothers Ltd, Republic National Bank of Dallas, *Royal Bank of Canada, (The), Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd, (The)

Saitama Bank Ltd, (The), *Samuel Montagu and Co Ltd, Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd, *Sanwa Bank Ltd, (The), Scandinavian Bank Ltd, *Seccombe, Marshall and Campion Ltd, Security Pacific National Bank, *S. G. Warburg and Co Ltd, *Singer and Friedlander Ltd, *Slater, Walker Ltd, *Smith, St Aubyn and Co Ltd, *Societe Generale pour Favoriser le Developement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France SA, Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, (The), *State Bank of India, Sumitomo Bank Ltd, (The), *Swiss Bank Corporation

Tokai Bank Ltd, (The), *Toronto-Dominion Bank, (The)

*Union Bank of Switzerland, *Union Discount Company of London Ltd, (The), *United Bank Ltd, United Dominions Trust Ltd, United International Bank Ltd

Wells Fargo Ltd, Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, Western American Bank (Europe) Ltd, Williams, Glyn and Co, Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd

*Yorkshire Bank Ltd

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1976, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

£4.40 (*by post* £4.69).

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

Room for industry at Wythenshawe

Construction of a major new industrial estate at Wythenshawe, near Manchester airport, has come a step closer. Manchester planning committee have granted detailed planning permission for 17 factory and warehouse units to be built on a 4.15 hectares (10.25 acre) site at Floats Road by the Bolton-based Townson Group.

The Floats Road estate is the largest prime freehold industrial site in south Manchester, with excellent communications through the M56, Manchester airport, and links with north west port facilities.

Construction by William Townson and Sons Ltd is scheduled to start shortly, and will be carried out in three phases. The first phase of developments will be ready for occupation by late autumn this year, and completion of the £2½ million estate is projected within two years. The estate will comprise nine blocks with a total area of 14,800m² (159,400 sq ft), designed to give companies a wide range of choice to suit their needs. Individual unit sizes will range from 460m² (4,960 sq ft) to 2,960m² (31,880 sq ft). Townson has worked in close contact with the local authority planners in preparing the scheme, which will be extensively landscaped to protect the local environment.

Jack Hadwin, Manchester council's director of industrial development, commented: 'This is an important step forward in the development of south Manchester, and we are pleased that the project is going ahead in an area so much in demand for industry. The council will certainly give it every possible support as a welcome attraction to the area for investment and employment.'

Inquiries from manufacturers and warehouse specialists interested in moving to the new estate have already been received by Townson Developments (Lancashire) Ltd, and the company is confident of attracting investment in units, bringing many new jobs to the area.

First buoy of new system

After seeing the first buoy laid in the Dover Strait under the new International Association of Lighthouse Authorities buoyage system, Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said, 'I am very impressed that progress has been made so quickly. Impetus came with the disaster in the Dover Strait in 1971. Now we see in 1977 the first buoy in the water and a programme for the complete coverage of European waters by 1980. The Dover Strait is thus the obvious choice. I think that all agree that the need for a system is most acutely felt in the busy waters of the Channel, where accurate navigation by all vessels is essential.

'The introduction of the new buoyage system is just one of a number of activities aimed at making navigation safer in the English Channel. On 15 July, three months from today, the 1972 international regulations for the prevention of collisions at sea become mandatory, enforcing the observation of traffic separation schemes. We have also been working closely with our French colleagues on the Anglo-French Safety of Navigation Group, on improved communications, on closer surveillance of traffic moving through the separation scheme and on disaster planning.'

The International Association of Lighthouse Authorities is a non-governmental body.

Under the new IALA Buoyage System, more than 30 different buoyage systems in use worldwide in 1975, have been reduced to two. System 'A', which combines cardinal and lateral buoys and uses red for buoys to be left to port (for use in Europe, Africa, India, Australia and some Asian waters), and system 'B', which is based on lateral buoys only and uses red buoys to mark the starboard side of the channel (for use in north and south American waters and parts of Asia). A key feature of the new system is that new wrecks and hazards can be marked by buoys whose light characteristics at night and top mark silhouette by day clearly indicate where the safe water lies.

Oil takes Forth to top of Scottish tonnage league

North Sea oil development was the main factor in increasing the operating profit of the Forth Ports Authority in 1976, resulting in the Forth handling significantly more tonnage than any other port system in Scotland. And, in presenting the year's accounts, the authority's chairman, Gerald Elliot, states that the Forth is now becoming the most important centre in the country for the oil industry.

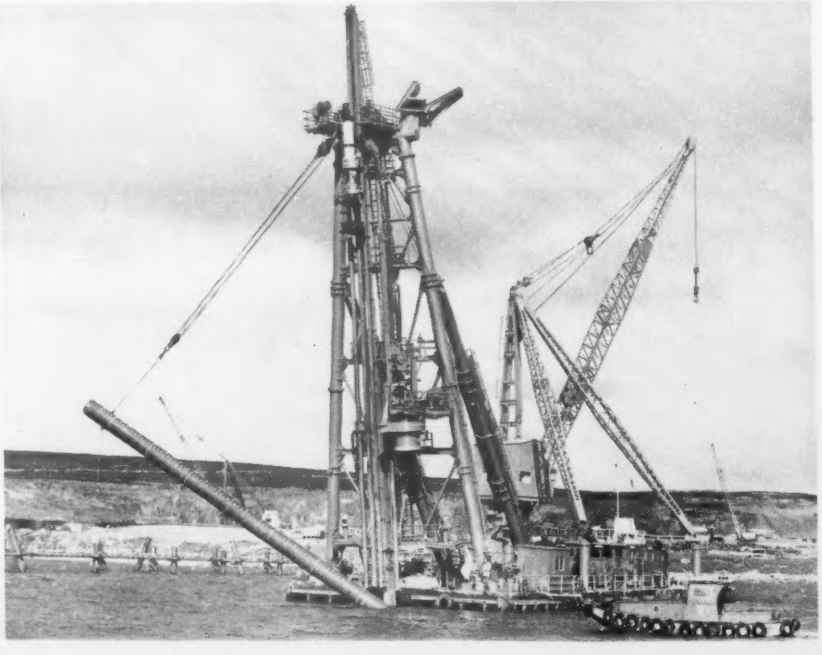
Profits were £1.48 million in 1976, an increase of £909,000 over the previous year. Influences included the renegotiation of the agreement with BP for the use of Grangemouth Docks, higher rents, more towage and oil-field construction activity.

Tonnage through the estuary's six ports rose significantly from just under 8.5 million tonnes in 1975, to 13.8 million tonnes last year. Of that total, nearly 11 million tonnes were oil and petroleum products, passing both through the ports and over the Hound Point offshore loading terminal, which handles Forties field crude.

Commenting on the Forth's increasing importance to the oil industry, Mr Elliot said that the Forth was too far away to gain significantly from the oil exploration phase, but in the second development phase the Forth had obtained a good share, through rig and module building installations on both sides of the Forth, pipe-coating in Leith and the increasing use of the estuary as a base by pipe-laying and construction barges.

The third phase, involving production had barely begun, but it promised to be the most important for the Forth. The handling of oil and gas from the Forties field at Grangemouth and the export of the surplus through the Hound Point terminal was the first step. Now the authority hoped that the Shell/Esso plant to process gas from the Brent field in Fife would be approved by the planning authorities and allow construction to start within the next year. This could result in large tonnages of refrigerated gas being exported from a new terminal at Braefoot. This Shell/Esso project could be a key investment for an expanded petrochemical industry in the east of Scotland.

A 25-ton derrick supplied by Butters Cranes Ltd has been installed as a service and auxiliary crane aboard a piling pontoon owned and operated by civil engineering contractors Christiani and Nielsen Ltd currently on site at Sullom Voe in the Shetland Islands. The 40 by 14m pontoon was specially designed for marine pile driving, with a pile frame operating over the bow and the Butters derrick hoisting over the stern and starboard side.



Clearance of merger proposal

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the proposed merger between Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd and Estates House Investment Trust Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Opportunities for small firms in Peterborough

Small firms in Peterborough and the surrounding area are being invited to attend a seminar which, it is hoped, will help them to meet some of the problems, and, better still, seize some of the opportunities facing business people today. The event will be held at Thomas Cook's new headquarters offices at Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, on Tuesday 26 April, and Wednesday 27 April starting at 7.30 each evening.

Bob Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, who has special responsibility for small firms, will open and preside over the seminar on the first evening. On the second evening the seminar will be chaired by Stephen Bingham, managing director of Soda Stream Ltd, itself a fast-growing small firm both in the home and export markets.

The purpose of the event is to try to demonstrate to the people who run small businesses some of the wide range of services which can help them with a variety of problems. Speakers at the seminar will be talking about introducing new products, financial problems, industrial relations in small firms, and export opportunities.

The seminar is being organised jointly by the small firms information service of the Department of Industry, and the Peterborough Development Corporation. Anybody wanting to know about the seminar should contact: Les Fitton, Small Firms Information Centre, 35 Wellington Street, Luton LU1 2SB (tel: Luton 29215).

Integral-end extrusions for hydraulic cylinders

Checking hollow extrusions with specially-shaped space ends, which will be used as hydraulic cylinders in JCB excavator loaders, in the Birmingham plant of TI Reynolds Ltd. The superior strength of an extruded one-piece cylinder and its high-bore accuracy are two of the main reasons why JCB, a leading producer of excavator loaders and shovels, is now making most of its cylinder rams, actuators, recoil cylinders and slew brakes from Reynolds hollow extrusions instead of from fabricated cylinders.

Marine survey and other fees

Fees are being introduced on 25 April 1977 by the Department of Trade for the inspection of radar installations on board ships consequent upon the introduction of requirements relating to the provision of such installations in the Merchant Shipping (Radar) Rules 1976 (SI 1976/302). The radar rules came into force on 1 April 1976 and contain provision for compliance in respect of certain equipment by 1 April 1977. Other equipment does not have to be provided before 1 April 1980. The fees are based on the amount of work involved calculated at the current hourly rate of £14.40.

Fees for marine examinations are being increased at the same time by 75 per cent. This will recover about 50 per cent of costs and it is therefore proposed to move to full-cost recovery in two annual stages thereafter. Marine examination fees have recovered some 50 per cent of costs from 1923 to 1967. They were not increased until 1975, when in line with the retail price index they were raised by 50 per cent and again by a further 50 per cent last year. Ministerial approval has been given for the present temporary exception to the government policy of full-cost recovery.

Copies of the new regulations, the Merchant Shipping (Fees) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations 1977 (SI 1977/627, price 15p), are available from HMSO.

King&Co
Chartered Surveyors
1 Snow Hill,
London, EC1A 2DL
Telephone 01-236 3000
Telex 885485
Also in Manchester,
Leeds & Brussels.

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ENCIRCLE TI 477 ON PAGE 155 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: J. B. Clemetson

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD
(Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; H. W. J. Christmas

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP
(Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. S. Ford

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS
(Tel: 0202-28208/9)
R. F. Savage

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ
(Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ
(Tel: 0273-64301/4 and 688265/8)
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN
(Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT
(Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
W. J. Llewellyn

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury CT1 2NQ
(Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG
(Tel: 0222-30575/6/7)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR
(Tel: 0244-21471/2)
H. Robertson

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX
(Tel: 01-681 2633)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU
(Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST
(Tel: 0452-21658/9 and 27997)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF
(Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX
(Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX
(Tel: 0532-448851)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE
(Tel: 0533-222513)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ
(Tel: 051-236 9131/2)
K. Matthewson

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB
(Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
90 Abington Street Northampton NN1 2BX
(Tel: 0604-37288/9)
W. J. Llewellyn

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D
(Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
1 Collin Street, Nottingham NG1 7EP
(Tel: 0602-51596/8)
W. W. Jordan

Plymouth
63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD
(Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Monarch House, 75-79 Caversham Road Reading RG1 8AW
(Tel: 0734-581931/5)
E. A. Perkins

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester
(Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes-on-Sea
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD
(Tel: 0253-721271)
M. Clark

Sheffield
8/12 Furnival Gate, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4QN
(Tel: 0742-26691/3)
T. Wilks

Southampton
Western Range, 83-85 London Road, Southampton SO9 1NQ
(Tel: 0703-23348/9 and 23340)
R. F. Savage

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, 61 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
J. M. Christenson

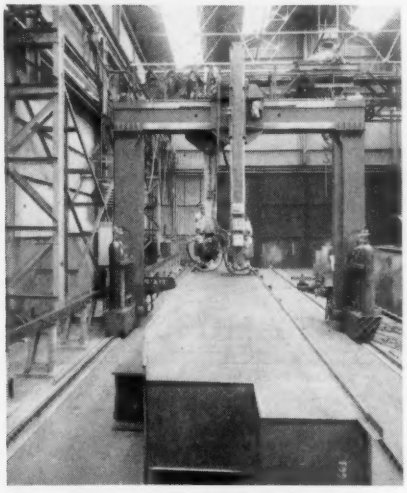
Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP
(Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

Stoke
London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN
(Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 St Helens' Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-428613)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ
(Tel. 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

Automatic welding gantry



To speed up lengthy welding operations on crane girders, John Smith (Keighley) Ltd has designed and installed a unique automatic submerged-arc welding gantry in its Keighley plant. Capable of handling girders of up to 30m (100 ft) in length, the new equipment produces a cleaner, deeper weld of consistently high quality at approximately 500mm (20 in)/min.

March steel production

Steel production in Britain averaged 413,200 tonnes a week in March, a fall of 2.7 per cent from the February level of output and 8.3 per cent below the figure for March last year. Output at the British Steel Corporation plant at Port Talbot in South Wales was restricted by an industrial dispute in the last two weeks of March. All major steel-making areas continued to be affected by the recession in demand for steel products.

Moving by air cushion

One of three contracts for the relocation of storage tanks using the air cushion principle, carried out by Mears Construction Ltd. For Shell Chemicals UK Ltd, a 12m diameter by 7.6m high tank was moved twice to make room for a larger tank. The tank was moved on to a temporary base whilst two new bases were constructed alongside; then the tank was moved over 40m to its new permanent location.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act, 1949, the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
31 March 1977		
1,098,796	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	A combustion chamber head for internal combustion engines
1,152,568	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	A combined instrument unit for motor vehicles
1,345,383	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	Drum brake for vehicles
1,345,562	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	Cylinder head for multi-cylinder four-stroke internal combustion engines
1,380,266	Agfa-Gevaert	Process for the semi-continuous preparation of high-molecular weight linear polyesters
1,453,833	Agfa-Gevaert	Improved direct-positive silver halide emulsions
1,453,933	Afga-Gevaert	Automatic winding and cutting apparatus for webs
1,360,587	Societa' Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Improved process for the purification of titanium tetrachloride
1,385,803	Societa' Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for the preparation of self-extinguishing epoxy resins
1,411,616	Societa' Italiana Resine SIR SpA	The preparation of olefin polymerisation catalysts
1,340,859	Precision Processes (Textiles) Ltd	Treatment of wool
1,430,595	Precision Processes (Textiles) Ltd	Treatment of wool
1,286,763	Coach Fittings Development Ltd	A fastening
1,418,484	Isis Technical Finishes Ltd	Pressure vessels
1,422,220	Cockerill-Ougree-Providence et Esperance-Longdoz en abrege 'Cockerill'	Chromising process
1,423,054	ITT Industries Inc	Series stabilization circuit
1,423,989	Michael John Denton	An improved flue section
5 April 1977		
1,347,061	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Camera suitable for use with a flash apparatus
1,370,151	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	A process of incorporation of additives into photographic compositions
1,315,470	Gebruder Welger	An agricultural baler
1,318,005	Gebruder Welger	A method and implement for conditioning cut hay and silage crops in the field
1,276,976	Herbert Morris Ltd	Improvements in linear induction motors
1,329,205	Herbert Morris Ltd	Improvements in linear induction motors
1,136,872	Schottel-Werft Josef Becker KG	Improvements relating to clutches
1,235,056	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	Improvements in or relating to motor vehicle sashless windows
1,343,962	Establissements Georges Olivier	Improvements in or relating to vacuum cleaners
1,371,264	John Derek Bolton	Improvements relating to trailer vehicle couplings
1,377,530	Bone Cravens Ltd	Improvements in injection moulding
6 April 1977		
1,207,467	International Standard Electric Corporation	Improvements to digital signal transmission systems in telecommunication exchanges
1,281,795	International Standard Electric Corporation	Telecommunication exchanges
1,344,452	International Standard Electric Corporation	Improvements to switching networks
1,407,891	International Standard Electric Corporation	An asynchronous time diversion multiplexer and demultiplexer
1,415,919	International Standard Electric Corporation	Electronic switching module
1,421,027	International Standard Electric Corporation	Doppler scanning guidance system receiver
1,299,024	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Interruptor circuit
1,386,693	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Transistor circuit for an oscillator
1,424,674	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Facsimile transmitter optical scanning arrangement
1,374,735	ITT Creed Ltd	Telegraph transmission apparatus
1,182,262	EMI Ltd	Improvements relating to hydraulic shock absorbers
1,185,635	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to machines for loading thin articles into bags
1,350,906	EMI Ltd	Improvements relating to arrangements including movement control devices
1,426,433	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to television camera arrangements
1,426,434	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to television camera arrangements
1,428,106	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to the formation of glassy pinch seals
1,395,154	EMI Varian Ltd	Improvements in or relating to variable capacitors and to devices employing them
1,059,331	Marinair (Radar) Ltd	Improvements in charging circuits

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on patents form 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage, Comptroller

Cancellation of 'Licences of Right'

Application has been made for cancellation of the following endorsement 'Licences of Right' under section 36 of the Patents Act, 1949. Any person may give notice of opposition to the application by filing patents form 46 within one month from the date of the advertisement in the *Official Journal (Patents)*, dated 21 April 1977.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
1,430,797	International Standard Electric Corporation	Horizontal deflection circuit for television receivers

Price Commission interventions during March

During March the Price Commission rejected seven notifications* of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in categories I and II. In another 13 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notification of intended increases and in 32 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the commission. See lists below.

During March, following discussions with the Price Commission, two distributors in category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £1.41 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in its periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in category III, the commission's regional offices secured the agreement of 144 distributors, 12 manufacturers, six service enterprises, three professional enterprises and five construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £5.22 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional offices secured a total of 166 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation or complaints about prices increases.

Notes

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28-day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase. The inclusion of an item in the lists of rejections or withdrawals does not preclude subsequent re-submission.

In some cases a company may submit a single price increase notification involving a range of products. If some items within the range are subject to intervention, the whole notification, for statistical purposes, is treated as a modification.

* Including a notification by the British Gas Corporation of increases in gas charges which were subsequently approved by the Secretary of State for Energy (see Rejections, Category I).

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
British Gas Corporation†	Gas tariffs	9.60
	Service charges and other miscellaneous charges	10.00
	Special contracts	Increase related to fuel market price at the time of renewal
Covrad Ltd	Pressed components, heat exchangers and space heating equipment	7.80
Winget Ltd	Dumpers	6.77
Category II		
Gillette Industries Ltd	Sundry surgical products (surgical syringes)	4.21
Christian Salvesen (Transport) Ltd	Haulage of goods	13.41
Cintride Ltd	Standard hard metal:	
	Tips	17.50
	Inserts	7.50
	Tools	15.00
Jonas and Colver Ltd	Standard hard metal-tipped tools	15.00

† These increases were subsequently approved by the Secretary of State for Energy by an order of consent dated 28 March 1977 made under para 6 of schedule 2 to the Counter-Inflation Act 1973.

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
British Wire Products Ltd	Control cables	5.30
Chloride Alcad Ltd	Re-chargeable alkaline sintered batteries	12.43
	Re-chargeable alkaline sintered batteries	2.57
RHM Agriculture Ltd	Animal feedingstuffs	0.67
Reckitt and Colman Ltd	'Haze' air freshner	0.81
Category II		
Citybus Ltd	Bus fares	9.00
Givauden and Co Ltd	Perfumery compounds	2.45
Hargreaves Transport Ltd	Haulage rates	9.78
Lilly Industries Ltd	Tylan soluble	27.40
Manganese Bronze Ltd	Sintered bearings and components	0.30
Merck Sharp and Dohme (Holdings) Ltd	Animal and plant health products	28.98
John Morrell and Co Ltd	Pet food	2.10
Services To Specifiers Ltd	Technical data for architects and builders	1.16

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Category I			
AFA-Minerva (EMI) Ltd	Rental and maintenance contracts charges (fire and intruder detection equipment)	14.38	13.38
Advance Linen Services (Western Ltd	Hire of 'Towelmaster' cabinets, linen and garments	13.72	11.97
Allied Bakeries Ltd	Bread	4.23	2.78
Avon Rubber Co Ltd	Processed rubber	8.44	8.41
BICC Metals Ltd	Hot rolled rod, strip, wire and strand of copper alloy and aluminium conductor	3.01	2.15
Calor Gas Ltd	Liquid pressure gases (propane and butane) in bulk and in cylinders	6.58	6.45
Decca Radio and Television Ltd	Domestic monochrome television sets (Model MS1212)	9.10	8.62
Delta Capillary Products Ltd	Capillary fittings	14.29	5.48
Dunlop Ltd	Tyres for replacement market	8.70	8.50
Hoover Ltd	Domestic electrical appliances, spare parts and service	13.52	12.34
OP Chocolate Ltd	Christmas chocolate novelties	29.46	29.39
RHM Bakeries Ltd	Bread	7.21	5.82
RHM Bakeries (NI) Ltd	Bread	12.96	12.87
RHM Flour Mills Ltd	Bakers' and similar flours	0.36	0.33
Ruston Diesels Ltd	Diesel engine spare parts	2.15	2.08
Frederick Smith and Co Ltd	Hot rolled rod	12.29	11.33
Spillers-French Baking Ltd	All bread products	9.02	8.17

Catalogues of government publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offers its customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of government publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

Company	Product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Spillers-French Milling Ltd	Bakers' flours	3.64	3.00
Winget Ltd	Dumpers	6.77	6.39
Category II			
Anderson Mavor Ltd	Mining equipment	6.60	6.57
British Gas and Oil Burners Ltd	Pressure jet gas and oil burners	12.06	11.16
Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd	Orthophenyl phenol	10.83	6.27
Crown Cork Co Ltd	Tinplate cans	8.55	8.21
W. R. Grace Ltd	Gas drying chemicals	13.97	12.22
Mitchell Cotts Airfreight (UK) Ltd	Road transport delivery service	7.50	4.52
Parke-Davis and Co Ltd	Consumer and veterinary products	31.10	28.80
Rockware Glass Ltd	Glass containers	13.12	12.89
Spanboard Ltd	Spanboard	23.07	19.83
Tungstone Batteries Ltd	Automotive batteries	8.83	8.56
Universal Tape Printing Co Ltd	Cellulose film and tapes	10.00	8.80
Vaux Breweries Ltd	Wholesale beer	8.06	6.74
	Managed house tariffs	4.85	3.57
Ward and Goldstone Ltd	PVC conduit and fittings	9.74	5.98

Government sales

Ministry of Defence Sales by auction

27 April 1977

Location
Ordnance Support Unit RAOC, Chart Road, Ashford, Kent

Auctioneers
Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

30 April 1977

Location
RAF North Coates, Lincs

Auctioneers
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532 450898)

The above two sales each comprise approximately 600 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities for the benefit of personal buyers.

3 May 1977

Location
The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8

Auctioneers
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532 450898)

The stores lying at the Regional Depot/OSU Barlow and other depots include vehicles, machine tools, MT tyres and spares, garage and workshop equipment, household, office and gardening utensils, carpets, clothing and footwear, house and office furniture and many other miscellaneous items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Industrial Property Plant and Machinery

VALUATIONS

SALES

UK & OVERSEAS

Henry Butcher & Co

London 01-405 8411

Leeds 0532 457356

ENCIRCLE TI 475 ON PAGE 155 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Wembley Auction Sales 1977

3 May 1977

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available direct from the auctioneers price 10p.

ENCIRCLE TI 480 ON PAGE 155 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Publications

SIMA 1974 and 1975 Statistics of the United Kingdom Instrument Industry. SIMA. (125 pages. Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, 20 Peel Street, London W8. 1977. £50.00.) This is the latest SIMA statistical report, the previous edition of which was reviewed in *Trade and Industry*, 23 May 1975, page 464. This present issue covers the period 1971 to 1975 inclusive and includes all the detailed data which would have been published had there been an issue last year. The one major change introduced in this 1977 volume is that both the production statistics and the overseas trade statistics are categorised in the same way, thus resulting in a uniform sector analysis in both the tables and the accompanying commentary. The 13 sectors comprise: optical instruments; optical components; surveying instruments; navigational instruments and equipment; metrological instruments and equipment; demonstration instruments, apparatus and models; testing instruments and equipment; industrial and process measuring and control instruments and equipment; laboratory and analytical instruments and equipment; medical instruments, supplies and equipment; supply meters; revolution counters; and, finally, electrical and electronic measuring and test instruments. The information presented in this year's review can be broadly summarised under the following three main areas. The first consists of a series of tables giving detailed production statistics for the years 1972 to 1975, together with processed export and import data for 1974 and 1975. This is succeeded by separate commentaries on the performances of the above cited 13 sectors over the 1971 to 1975 period. Thirdly, the report assesses recent developments in the harmonisation of headings utilised in the collection of statistics on internal trade. This latter feature replaces the detailed explanations of the classification and coding system developed to describe the industries concerned which was included in the 1973 SIMA statistics publication. That volume gave special attention to the United Kingdom's standard industrial classification (SIC), the nomenclature generale des activities economiques dans les communautes Europeenes (Nace), the common nomenclature of industrial products (Nipro), and the nomenclature pour les imports et les exports (Nimexe). The appendices to the 1973 publication were in the form of schedules showing how the Nipro and Nimexe headings could be aligned with those of the national production and overseas trade statistics of the UK, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy. The 1977 SIMA publication omits these, as they are still available from SIMA on request. The reprinted schedules are still of use in relation to the eventual adoption by the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service of the Nimexe coding for the UK's statistics of overseas trade. It should be noted that the Nimexe coding is broadly consistent with the Brussels tariff nomenclature (BTN), which is now the most widely used system for classifying commodities in international trade which are subject to tariffs. Anomolies do exist and this final part of the 1977 volume does note these in the course of narrating harmonisation progress in the field of classification. In virtually all other respects, the structure of the 1977 volume follows that noted in this journal in 1975. Thus, this latest in a continuing series of SIMA compiled statistics, is as invaluable to those engaged in the particular industries concerned as have been the previous editions, although this issue covers a wider span of years than formerly and is, therefore, of more use for both trend analysis and comparison purposes. The relevance of the various commodity classification schemes in use is discussed in *Trade and Industry*, 17 September 1976, pages 726-8.

Mineral development in the eighties: prospects and problems. A report prepared by a group of committee members on the basis of a document provided by Ian MacGregor, with a statistical annex by Sperry Lea. (54 pages. Available from British North American Research Association, 1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE. 1976. £1.50. ISBN 0 902594 29 x.) The British North American Committee, whose members are responsible for this report, was originally established to study and comment upon the developing relationships between Britain, Canada and the United States. It has for some time expressed interest in the future supply of nonfuel minerals to industrialised countries and in this report, comments on current problems relating to investment in new mineral projects. The introductory statement by the BNAC is followed by a long list of signatories ranging from the director of Exxon Corporation to the vice chancellor of Lancaster university. There are footnotes to the statement and throughout the report allowing individuals to criticise or supplement the text. The authors state that whilst there is no general physical shortage of nonfuel minerals, there is a possible risk that the producing countries may follow OPEC's example and restrict supplies or create a monopoly pricing situation. They explain why the system for obtaining capital for mineral development has broken down. Industrialised countries have switched new investment and exploration from developing countries to more reliable sources of supply. Huge increases in capital costs have deterred nations from embarking on new projects. Also, government change and political instability have constituted a threat to long term investment. The authors suggest that producers and consumers must come to some agreement over a satisfactory system for attracting capital for development and ensuring markets. The report itself is the nineteenth of a series produced by the BNAC.

Arab Business Yearbook. (579 pages. Graham and Trotman Ltd. 1976. £9.25. ISBN 0 86010048 0). In the introduction to the *Arab Business Yearbook* Mohamed Wahby, deputy director of the Arab League Office, London, outlines the importance of achieving a better understanding of the modern Arab world. He believes that it is essential to develop an understanding of the way of life, traditions, attitudes and problems of the people within the area where business is sought. The book is divided into sections most of which deal with the various topics country by country. The first five sections of the yearbook provide economic and financial information relating to the Arab world together with a currency conversion chart and an import and export table. Section 6 presents key information on some of the the banks operating in the Arab world which deal with foreign business. Emphasis is placed on identifying locally incorporated banks together with the type of services they provide. The following section discusses personal taxation, accounting principles and procedures. The question of taxation is complicated by the fact that British, French and American procedures have been variously adopted with consequential loss of regional uniformity. The information provided in this section covers all aspects of taxation. A further short subsection summarises accounting principles and practices. Investment by foreign companies in the development of the Arab world has been significant, and this is discussed in a section which gives data essential to the businessman in assessing the opportunities available in the area. Section 9 deals with customs, tariffs and trade regulations while section 10 discusses the essentials of contract law. Here, an analysis is made of the types of contract and their interpretation. The need to consult qualified lawyers, accustomed to working with the Arab world and the arbitration it may require is emphasised. Labour and employment conditions and regulations can present problems to the western businessman, and section 11 of the *Yearbook* presents an analysis of the shortage of labour in certain countries and provides information on working conditions. The Arab world is a primary development area in which oil revenues have provided a starting point for development. This, however, is tempered by the desire of the Arab states to optimise their advantage by stimulating economic growth in sectors which will eventually remove the current dependence on oil income. Each of the countries is considered and analysed as to how they are approaching this difficult problem. Section 13 gives the background to Opec, including its members, structure, objectives, and achievements, industrial and commercial. The final sections of the book include useful addresses and information for the business traveller. This includes requirements for travel documents, health regulations, local time, hours of business, hotels, language and climate, trade fairs and public holidays.

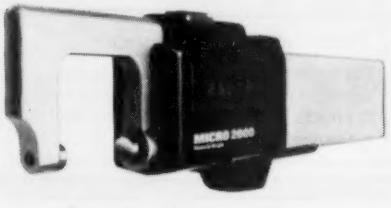
New products

Electronic digital micrometer

James Neill announces the introduction of the 'Micro 2000' electronic digital micrometer, a new hand-held precision measuring instrument produced by Moore and Wright (Sheffield) Ltd, a member of the James Neill Group. It is wholly British in concept, design and development and can well be regarded as the most important development in hand-tool measuring technology since the first micrometer evolved some 300 years ago.

The design for the micrometer was carried out, on Moore and Wright's behalf by Patscentre International of Cambridge. Designed for use in quality assurance, in standards rooms, laboratories, on the shop floor and wherever precise measurement or comparison are required, Micro 2000 is completely self-contained and available in two models covering measuring capacities 0-25mm and 0-1 in.

The skilled operator is able to achieve an accuracy of ± 2 microns (0.002mm) or ± 0.0001 in. Consistency from one reading to the next and from one operator to the next is ensured by the constant closure force spindle. This advances at a controlled



rate and exerts the same pressure, every time, at the point of measurement. The Micro 2000 is also self-calibrating – switching it on automatically sets the digital display to zero.

A continuously illuminated five-digit electronic display reads to 1 micron or 0.0001 in. and the clear presentation minimises the risk of operator reading error. The spindle takes about one second to close from maximum capacity to zero, so measurements can be taken in a very short time. The micrometer can be instantly re-set to zero against a reference standard or component and used as a direct comparator to measure the actual variations (plus or minus) from that standard or between like components.

Further information: circle 269

Ultrasonic flaw detector

Balteau Sonatest Ltd is adding to its comprehensive range of ultrasonic flaw detectors with the launch of the UFD3 which is aimed at that part of the market which requires portability with more effective presentation. Designed for general purpose work on the shop floor and site, the UFD3 is a compact, large display, battery-powered ultrasonic flaw detector and it has a number of features that make the work of the inspector operator as convenient as possible.

The UFD3 has a particularly large and bright display which is 100mm × 75mm in size with graticule illumination. There are directly calibrated range controls and directly calibrated delay controls, the latter with a delay 'marker' for ease of setting up. Other major features of the UFD3 are a separate probe zero control; linear and logarithmic presentation; short pulse; and grouped controls for rapid familiarisation.

Further information: circle 270

Oscilloscope adjunct

This new low-cost instrument from Matthey Printed Products Ltd will enable any oscilloscope to be used as a waveform monitor. The TV line selector 2506 causes stable TV waveforms of any desired line to be displayed and therefore drastically reduces the eye strain and frustration which can be suffered by TV engineers who do not have access to a waveform monitor.

Further information: circle 271

Vertical louvres increase comfort

Substantial savings in the size and running costs of air-conditioning plant can be achieved using exterior sun louvres introduced by the export division of H. H. Robertson (UK) Limited. Manufactured in Versacor protected steel, the vertically mounted adjustable louvres can be fitted to the exterior of any building to protect the occupants from glare and to reduce the need for cooling by up to 80 per cent. Where air-conditioning is not provided the louvres can increase the comfort of the people working inside.

Adjustable through a horizontal angle of 130°, the louvres give protection from the sun at any time of day and can be closed completely. The Versacor finish is an epoxy primer over a phosphate-treated galvanised sheet and finished in a silicone modified polyester colour coat. It is claimed to be capable of withstanding any climatic conditions.

There is a range of eight standard colours but a preference is expected for the lighter shades, although research figures show darker colours reduce the solar gain by a further 5 per cent. Specified at the design stage of a building the sun-louvres will allow a reduction in the capacity of the cooling plant to produce a capital saving, and a consequent lower running cost.

Further information: circle 272

Vertical adjustable louvres protect offices from suns rays.

Triplex use Glasspack

Glasspack, the new packaging introduced by Capseals Sacks Ltd, has now been adopted by Triplex Safety Glass Ltd for many of its vehicle windscreens and sidescreens. The made-to-measure Glasspacks are made from layers of kraft paper between which is sandwiched a highly resilient layer of single-faced corrugated sheet.

Further information: circle 273

Measuring peak and impulse noise

Genrad Ltd has introduced its 1982 precision sound level meter and analyser, a multi-function instrument which can be used for precision sound level measurements, octave band analysis, and peak and impulse noise measurement. All of these capabilities are built-in, and unlike other instruments, do not require plug-in filter sets or other add-on accessories.

Both digital and analog displays for error-free reading of measured levels are a feature of the instrument. The digital display can be operated so that it tracks the fluctuating noise levels, or it can be set to display and hold the level of a specific event or the maximum measured level while the analog meter continues to track ambient levels. It is ideal for noise and vibration measurements in industry, product noise reduction, product quality control, hearing conservation programs, audiometer calibration and other general acoustic measurements.

The GR1982 complies with the UK requirements for precision sound level meters (BS 4197), as well as IEC R 179 for precision and impulse sound level meters. It covers the range of 30 to 140dB in four 50dB steps and 10 octave band filters from 31.5Hz to 16kHz. The octave filter complies to IEC 225-1966 and BS 2475 specifications.

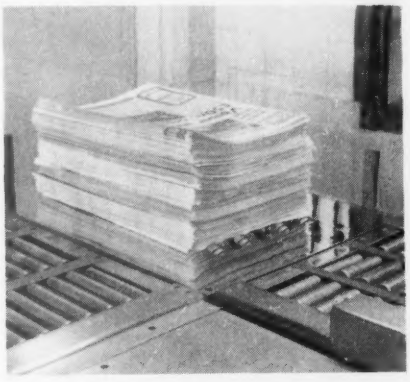
Further information: circle 274

Newspaper bundle handling

Transport of newspaper bundles is aided by a roller flight conveyor and a multi-way diverter introduced by the Crabtree Vickers division of Vickers Ltd. Incorporated into the company's newspaper mailroom system, these two new items are designed to match the performance characteristics of the rest of the system.

The roller flight conveyor, with its unique three-roller construction in staggered configuration makes the transport of bundles smoother. There is less risk of disturbance or damage to bottom copies, particularly when bundles are retarded as, for example, before tyers. An important feature which ensures reliable transit between conveyors is the pair of anti-friction plastic-coated bearer strips between the three rollers.

The multi-way diverter has been developed to function with almost unlimited versatility whilst retaining compactness. Comprising a cabinet with sides just the width of facing conveyors, and of appropriate height, it has an array of two-way wheels recessed into the top surface. These wheels have been specially developed for the multi-way diverter and are linked to an electro-pneumatic control system. An incoming bundle passes a photocell which triggers the wheels and causes them to decelerate it to rest, and then re-start in any required direction. This is achieved smoothly, without any disturbance to the untied bundles, at rates up to 30 per minute.



Crabtree Vicker's multi-way diverter, in 'one-in, one-out' form at the junction of two conveyors.

Further information: circle 275

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Continuous print system

What the manufacturers describe as a major technological advance for the flexographic printer has been introduced by Uniroyal with the Flex-light 'continuous print' photopolymer and processing equipment which will shortly be available throughout Europe and will be manufactured in Britain.

This development has advantages in flexography since the photopolymer completely covers the printing surface of the roller and produces an image without a gap along the whole length of the web. It is, therefore, of interest for the printing of textiles, wallpaper and in-line packaging printing from the reel.

The new system is an extension of Uniroyal's flat-plate technology, and initially Flex-light rollers will be available up to 2.5m wide and up to 65cm in circumference. Larger sizes will shortly be on the market.

Further information: circle 276

Uniroyal's new 'continuous print' photopolymer rollers designed for the flexographic printer.

Technology news

Industrialised building for developing countries

The administration of the Brecast system of industrialised building for developing countries, which was developed by the Building Research Establishment, has been taken over by Crendon Concrete (Overseas) Ltd, under the terms of a new licensing agreement. The licence will enable Crendon Concrete to supply all the Brecast information (covering design, construction and equipment) by sub-licence to building contractors and consultants based in the UK and abroad.

Brecast is a large concrete panel system based on the BRE battery-casting system which enables builders to obtain the benefits of industrialisation by producing panels themselves on site without the need for expensive permanent factories. This approach can yield a good rate of building output, 50 to 100m² of dwelling area per day, for a relatively modest initial capital investment. The system is suitable for both medium-rise (up to five storeys) and low-rise housing. Finishes and fittings can be basic or high quality depending on requirements and resources.

In developing the system, BRE assembled a comprehensive range of purpose designed and proprietary equipment and plant to produce and erect Brecast panels. Ranging from a tower crane to hand tools, the package is so comprehensive that it enables setting up to commence on a virgin site and be carried through into full production with the local supply only of concreting and reinforcing materials. Training courses were provided by BRE so that engineers from developing countries could obtain all the information required to build Brecast. The firm will now be supplying the Brecast technical manuals, the plant and equipment package and any design information, training courses and site services that may be required.

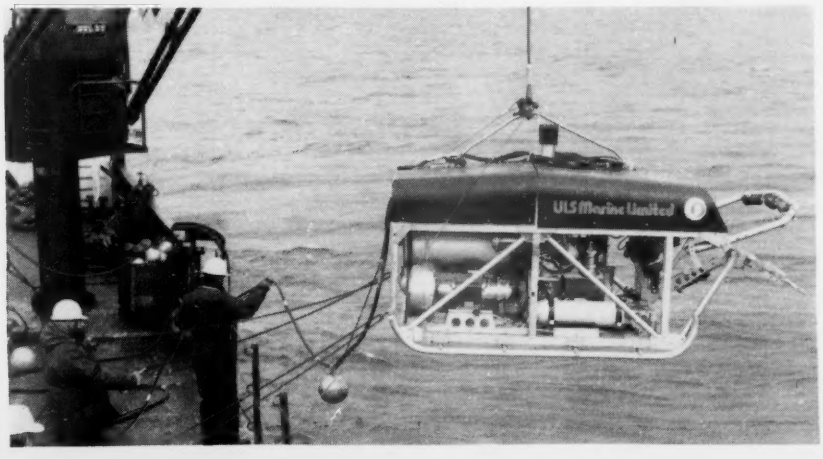
The first development of Brecast flats has been completed in Jakarta as a pilot project for the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and Electric Power with financial support from the UK Ministry of Overseas Development. It was so successful, providing a cost saving of one-third in comparison with flats built by local traditional methods, that the Indonesian government contractors, P. T. Hutama Karya, are planning to construct 22 further blocks containing about 450 flats for the Directorates of Highways and Housing to house government employees.

Another major Brecast project involving approximately 2,500 flats, is currently being undertaken in Algeria by Merlin Construction. Several other projects are now in an advance stage of negotiation.

Further information: circle 277

Unmanned submersible for dangerous environments

A robot submersible that operates on the sea bed to a depth of 460m and which can steer itself automatically along buried pipelines to find blockages or breakages, has been developed by Underground Location Services Marine Ltd, of Gloucestershire. Here, the submersible is about to enter the North Sea, where it recently underwent successful trials. CETUS (Computerised Explorations and Technical Underwater Surveyor) is an unmanned submersible which can operate in difficult and dangerous environments that divers cannot reach. It is equipped with a pair of manipulators, with four different functions, two television cameras, one for navigation and the other for transmitting pictures, and a still photographs camera. The submersible is controlled by a computer from the mother ship using a pair of umbilical cables down which all commands are relayed. In addition to surveying oil and gas pipelines, CETUS can also collect geological and biological specimens.



Save on maintenance costs

As announced in *Trade and Industry* 18 March a major conference 'Tero 77 – Profit Through Care' is to be held at Grosvenor House, London from 2 to 6 May 1977. Organised by the Department of Industry through its committee for terotechnology the conference will demonstrate how terotechnology principles are already successfully applied in many sectors of British industry, and how these principles applied to an organisation's use of its capital assets is closely linked with its profitability.

At a time when investment in plant and machinery is of critical importance to the national economy, terotechnology is now accepted as a powerful management discipline having a special relevance in today's industrial life. The conference will be of direct and immediate interest not only to managing directors, general and works managers but also to managers in the fields of production maintenance, financing, purchasing, marketing and engineering design.

The concept of terotechnology calls for the pursuit of economic life cycle costs. It emphasises the ideal of better planning leading to a greater economy. Companies of all sizes can benefit from this approach. For instance, one company called in consultants to carry out a study in planned maintenance on mechanical handling equipment and learned that the information needed for the planning process was already held in the head office accounts department but had not been used by the engineering staff. Despite a 19 per cent increase in throughput, maintenance costs fell. It had been decided that fork-lift trucks should be replaced after five years use. It was discovered that a substantial refit after four years for about 20 per cent of the original cost would extend the life to eight years with no increase in maintenance cost or down-time.

The conference will be open on the evening of Monday 2 May when an audience of leading industrialists will hear Sir Monty Finneston speak about 'The Industrial Technologies'. The following four days of the conference will be devoted to clearly differentiated industrial sectors and will demonstrate the many applications of terotechnology in heavy industry.

For further information contact the Department of Industry, 01-211 3978 or 3436.

Geos satellite launch imminent

Geos – the world's first all-scientific geostationary satellite, developed for the European Space Agency (ESA) by the BAC-led Star Consortium – is programmed for launch from the Eastern Test Range, Cape Canaveral, Florida on 20 April.

The satellite, which has been designed to operate for two years in geosynchronous orbit 36,000km (22,300 miles) above the equator, will be carried into space by a Delta 2914 vehicle.

Geos will carry scientific experiments from 11 research institutes in eight of the ESA member countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and will also be the reference satellite for the International Magnetospheric Study (IMS). During its operational life Geos will study the magnetosphere, that region of near-Earth space under the influence of the Earth's magnetic field. The magnetosphere prevents direct access of energetic solar particles to the Earth and so protects our planet from the harmful effects of space radiation.

The Star Consortium was formed in 1972. Its policies are directed by a council of all the members which also appoints the prime contractor for each project which it undertakes. The prime contractor then forms the industrial team for the project and assumes overall technical and commercial responsibility for its execution.

At present these include the British Aircraft Corporation, with responsibility for project management, system engineering, attitude and orbit control, wire harness, assembly integration and test and launch support.

Cge-Fiar of Italy is in charge of power supply; Contraves AG of Switzerland has control of structure; Dornier System GmbH of Germany the structure, booms and mechanisms, attitude measurement and electronics; LM Ericsson of Sweden the antennas; Montedel SpA of Italy the on-board data handling; Société Européenne de Propulsion of France the hydrazine thrusters; Sener SA of Spain the mechanical ground support equipment; and Thomson-CSF of France the telecommunication systems.

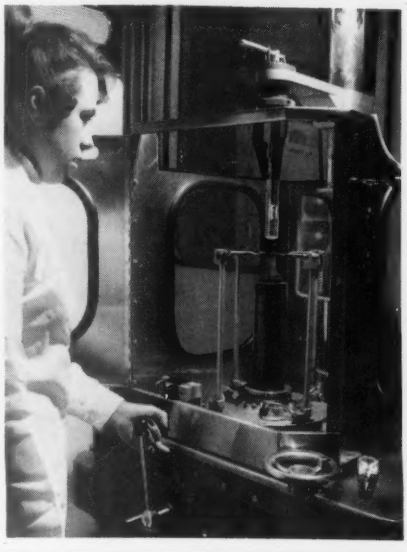
In addition to developing Geos, Star Consortium is also responsible for the ISEE-B satellite in the International Sun Earth Explorer satellite system due for launching in October of this year.

Looking further to the future, Star Consortium has undertaken the principal studies for the Solar Out-of-Ecliptic mission which ESA and NASA are presently considering as a mission for the early 1980s.

Thermal viewing

A new highly sensitive infra-red camera tube, the pyro-electric vidicon, being manufactured at English Electric Valve in Chelmsford. It is suitable for viewing an infra-red laser beam, medical thermography, inspection of power lines, transformer and switch gear parts and the detection of thermal waste. Unlike some similar devices, the front end of the camera works at normal temperatures and does not need to be cooled with liquid nitrogen.

Further information: circle 278



Mobile laboratory monitors hazards at work

Left: this new mobile laboratory is fully equipped for detecting and measuring hazards at work. Here, an emergency asbestos-in-air fibre count is carried out as part of the new support service to factory inspectors working for the Health and Safety Executive. Various occupational hazards can be analysed, from toxic fumes to dangerous noise levels. Right: a demolition worker strips asbestos lagging on a site in northern England.

Overseas trade news

Japan should buy more UK goods – Dell

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, urged Japan to buy more manufactured goods from Britain and spoke of the need for equal trading opportunities during his visit to Tokyo on 18 April.

Addressing the International Press Club, he said the UK wished to be able to compete in Japan as broadly across the range of manufactured goods as she did in other developed economies. The UK would like to see, in Japan, the final abandonment of the idea that imports were slightly unpatriotic and to be restricted to high-quality consumer goods and such high-technology products as were not yet made in Japan.

'That is why we were glad to welcome in the UK last month a mission of senior representatives of the Japanese car industry who were looking at the scope for expanding purchases from Britain of automobile accessories and components,' said Mr Dell.

In Britain, he said, the market was open. Similar goods from different sources were available for the consumer who could judge for himself the rival merits of foreign and domestic products. Free trade, involved an exchange of similar goods, not just of goods not manufactured in Japan.

Mr Dell noted that while around 50 per cent of the imports of other major developed countries consisted of manufactured goods, for Japan the figure was only about 20 per cent. 'If there is justification for the argument that the Japanese approach to international trade is different from that of other industrialised countries, this is where it lies,' Mr Dell said.

Mr Dell stressed that the UK did not expect to balance its payments with its major trading partners. But 'we do expect equal trading opportunities,' he said. The UK's deficit with the European community was largely in food and raw materials and so it was with the United States. Even where the UK had a deficit in trade in manufactured goods 'we like to know that at any rate the supplying country does import on a comparable scale and it is then up to us to fight for our share'.

Mr Dell acknowledged that Japan had shown understanding of the need for British industry to retain a substantial proportion of its own home market in certain of the more sensitive industrial sectors. He was confident that this co-operation could continue.

'But,' he continued, 'can we say that because of this understanding of part of the problem, the difficulties which have arisen in trade relations with Japan and Britain and between Japan and the European community have now largely been resolved? I fear that it is not yet possible to make any such statement.'

Mr Dell said that attitudes were apparently changing. 'But only if they do change and if Japanese imports of manufactures increase substantially 'will we achieve that target of interdependence which would enable us to say that the problem of Japanese trade with Britain and with the European community, which has caused so much concern to governments and industry on both sides, has been resolved.'

Mr Dell went on, 'You must expect that from now on we will be calculating free traders. I suspect that Japan particularly will understand this change in emphasis because I imagine that calculation has long been an important element in trade policy in Japan.'

In conclusion, Mr Dell said it would continue to be a major objective of UK policy to preserve the open trading system. But there would have to be a balance of advantage to the UK as well as to our trading partners. 'We have,' he said, 'a duty to our own people, particularly given the present high levels of unemployment and we will discharge it. We hope to do that in co-operation with the rest of the world including Japan, because that is the way to peace and prosperity'.

Agreement reached on UK-US air charter service

Agreement has been reached by the UK and the United States on air charter arrangements for the next 12 months. The agreement, which will run from 1 April 1977 to 31 March 1978, covers all types of charters currently approved in both countries, and includes for the first time the advance-booking charters originating in the United States which were approved by the Civil Aeronautics Board in September 1976. It brings close together the charter types on both sides of the Atlantic.

Under the agreement the UK will accept the United States minimum period-of-stay subject to a rule that (apart from a *de mimimis* provision for carriers with less than 1 per cent of the ABC market) no airline may carry more than half as many passengers on trips of 7 to 13 days duration as on trips of 14 days or more; substitution from the general public will be allowed at a level of 7 per cent up to seven days before the planned date of departure; the United States will undertake with the UK a systematic review of the effects of the substitution arrangements before the end of this year; and the UK will drop its plans to increase the pre-listing period for affinity charters from 30 to 45 days.

The two governments hope that this agreement will lead to an increase in charter traffic between their two countries without diverting traffic from the scheduled services.

Some of the provisions of this agreement are regarded as experimental. The results will be reviewed this autumn with a view to determining whether any changes would be desirable next year.

Talks between the UK and United States governments in an attempt to replace the charter memorandum of understanding which expired at the end of 1976 have been going on for some time. The conclusion of this agreement will allow both sides' aviation negotiators to concentrate on the achievement of a new air-services agreement to cover scheduled services.

Growth in ECGD support for performance bonds

Figures released by the Export Credits Guarantee Department show a substantial increase in the support the department gives for the issue of performance bonds for UK exports of capital goods.

During 1976, 25 guarantees for performance bonds cover were issued, compared with four in 1975. This brings the total value of contracts supported by the 29 guarantees issued by ECGD since the scheme began two years ago to £274 million. Business under negotiation involves UK contracts valued at more than £850 million.

The first two guarantees have now been signed for ECGD cover against 'unfair calling' of bonds issued without direct support from ECGD. The combined value of the contracts for which insurance has been provided is £5 million. Further business under consideration involves UK contracts valued at more than £90 million.

Export workshop held for Scottish companies

Over 50 companies took part in an export workshop held in Glasgow's City Chambers on 14 April. The workshop, sponsored by the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) and arranged in association with the British Overseas Trade Board, highlighted the export opportunities in the United States with particular emphasis on the American mid-west.

International conference on desertification

A conference on desertification is being convened by the United Nations in Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September 1977. It will discuss and co-ordinate measures to stem the spread of deserts.

The UK will be represented by a small delegation from the Ministry of Overseas Development.

The initiative came from the twenty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly which in 1974 called for a world conference in 1977. The conference secretariat has commissioned reviews on the following subjects to serve as background papers for the conference:

Climate and desertification; Ecological change and desertification; Technology and desertification; Population, society and desertification.

In addition six areas have been chosen as sites for case studies of desertification processes. They are:

Northern Chile and southern Tunisia which are arid areas with predominantly winter rainfall; North-west India and Niger which are arid areas with summer rainfall; and the Indus Valley, Pakistan, Tigris-Euphrates valley and Iraq which are irrigated areas subject to waterlogging and salinisation.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation is completing – with the assistance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the World Meteorological Organisation, maps showing desertification trends. The United States, USSR and West Germany are also producing more experimental and innovative maps on aridity and desertification.

There are to be studies of transnational projects to determine whether co-operative efforts to halt the spread of deserts and maybe reverse the process, are possible.

For general inquiries on the conference, contact Mrs B. M. Kelly, Ministry of Overseas Development, Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH.

Details are also available from The Secretariat for the United Nations Conference on Desertification, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya, telex 333930, cable: Uniterra, Nairobi, Kenya.

Pilot study on six British ports

Procedures and information flows associated with the movement of goods into and out of British seaports is the subject of a pilot study by Leonard Griffiths and Associates Ltd. The project is being conducted on behalf of the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board (Sitpro) with the support of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) for International Freight Movement.

The consultants will interview six port authorities – London (including Tilbury and river wharves), Liverpool, Southampton, Dover, Felixstowe and Harwich. They will also see a representative cross-section of British trade participants including exporters/importers, inland carriers, shipping companies, container lines and loading brokers, Customs and Excise, freight forwarders, stevedores, tallyclerks and container bases. Ro-ro, container and general cargo services will be covered by the study which will last about three months.

The purpose of the pilot study is to consider areas of commonality and of essential differences in port procedures and information flows controlling the movement of cargo and to identify the particular causes and effects of these common practices and variations.

Those interested who wish to contribute their views are invited to contact the Leonard Griffiths investigation team direct at their offices at 61 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DA, tel. 01-409 2039.

BCI mission to Moscow

The third mission to the USSR to be organised by Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce left Birmingham on 16 April. The 18 participants, led by Peter Bennett, chairman of the chamber's East Europe Executive Committee and executive director of Lucas East-West, will spend a week in Moscow where all the arrangements have been made with the co-operation of the All-Union Chamber of Commerce and the British embassy.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1610: Import arrangements for cotton yarn and restricted woven cotton textiles

This notice sets out the licensing arrangements after 31 March 1977 for imports into the UK of cotton yarn and woven cotton textiles originating in countries which are signatory to the Gatt multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) but with which the EEC has not negotiated a textile agreement under that arrangement. The notice announces some further liberalisation of certain goods originating in countries with whom the EEC has negotiated an agreement under the MFA.

It also sets out the quota levels and licensing arrangements for the period 1 April to 31 December 1977 for imports of woven cotton textiles originating in countries which are not signatory to the MFA.

Countries with which the EEC has negotiated textile agreements

The EEC has negotiated textile agreements with most of the major supplying countries, and details of the agreements have been published in notices to importers 1509 and 1604 (India), 1516 and 1599 (Hong Kong), 1518 and 1600 (Singapore), 1519 and 1600 (Macao), 1520 and 1600 (Malaysia), 1527 and 1587 (Republic of Korea), 1538 (Japan), 1539 (Pakistan), 1555 (Brazil), 1561 (Egypt), 1566 (Colombia), 1572 (Yugoslavia) and 1589 (Romania).

Further liberalisation of some textile goods from countries with which the EEC has negotiated textile agreements

Notice to importers 1598 (*Trade and Industry*, 11 February 1977), announced that imports of certain textile goods from the countries set out in the above paragraph which were previously subject to residual UK restrictions had in most cases been liberalised, ie freed from quantitative restrictions. The following goods from the countries indicated will also be liberalised with effect from 22 April 1977, and will in future be subject to UK surveillance licensing, details of which are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502. Should however imports of any of these liberalised goods reach disruptive levels, quotas may be re-introduced and *traders are reminded that quantitative restrictions may be imposed and import licences revoked at any time.*

Country	Tariff heading/Description
Hong Kong	**55.05** Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale
India	**ex 61.01** Men's and boys' outer garments, containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton

Country	Tariff heading/Description
	ex 61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments, containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton, *other than shirts and blouses, dresses and skirts**
Pakistan	**55.05** Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale
	ex 61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments, containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton
Republic of Korea	**ex 61.05** Handkerchiefs of polyester/cotton or containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton

* Women's, girls' and infants' shirts and blouses of cotton are covered by a quota established under the EEC/India textile agreement, as set out in notice to importers 1509 (*Trade and Industry*, 26 September 1975) or, if certified as handloom garments, by the quota set out in notice to importers 1604 (*Trade and Industry*, 25 March 1977). Dresses and skirts containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton will be the subject of a further notice.

Liberalisation of certain textile imports from remaining signatories to the MFA

With effect from 1 April 1977 imports into the UK from the countries set out below, of cotton yarn, woven fabrics of cotton and garments and other made-up textile articles containing more than 50 per cent by weight of woven cotton (and, in the case of Thailand, such goods of polyester/cotton), are liberalised, ie freed from quantitative restriction, and will in future be subject to UK surveillance licensing arrangements, details of which are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502. Should however imports of any of these liberalised goods reach disruptive levels, quotas may be re-introduced and *traders are reminded that quantitative restrictions may be imposed and import licences revoked at any time.*

The countries affected are as follows:

Algeria; Argentina; El Salvador; Guatemala; Haiti; Jordan; Mexico.

Nicaragua; Paraguay; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Syria; Thailand; Uruguay.

Non-signatories to the MFA: export-administered quotas

The quota levels for imports of woven cotton textiles during the period 1 April to 31 December 1977 for the following countries are:

Country	Quota (m^2)
Bangladesh	726,835*
Gibraltar	303,283
Iran	8,087
Kuwait	9,202
South Africa	689,869*

* These countries may not export more than 75 per cent of their total quota in garments or made-up articles.

Each of these countries will administer its own quota. Traders wishing to import woven cotton textiles from any of these sources should advise their suppliers to arrange for an export certificate to be issued for each consignment by the appropriate authority in the supplying country. Such certificates will be forwarded by the appropriate authority direct to Import Licensing Branch which will issue import licences within the appropriate quota limits. Traders should not make application to Import Licensing Branch. Import licences will be issued only if an export certificate is received in Import Licensing Branch direct from the government concerned or its agency. Import licences will not be issued if export certificates are incorrectly completed or are unsigned.

Non-signatories to MFA: import-administered quotas

For all other countries whose exports of woven cotton textiles are at present subject to restriction when imported into the UK, country quotas of 7,543m^2 have been established for the period 1 April to 31 December 1977. These quotas are administered by the UK and traders who wish to import from these countries should submit licence applications on form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch at the address shown opposite, together with evidence of a firm order (which should be made subject to the eventual issue of an import licence), eg copies of all the documents or letters exchanged with suppliers. No assurance can be given that licences will be issued in response to particular applications. Licences will be valid only for imports originating in a specified country. The countries concerned are:

Afghanistan; Angola; Bahrain; Bermuda; Bhutan; Bolivia; Burma; Cape Verde; Chile; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Dubai; Ecuador; Honduras; Indonesia.

Iraq; Libya; Mozambique; Nauru; Nepal; Oman; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; Venezuela; Yemen (North); Yemen (South).

Cotton yarn

Cotton yarn within tariff headings 55.05 and 55.06 from the countries listed in the previous two paragraphs is now liberalised and will in future be subject to UK surveillance licensing, details of which are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502. Should however imports of this commodity reach disruptive levels, quotas may be re-introduced and *traders are reminded that quantitative restrictions may be imposed and import licences revoked at any time.*

Conversion factors

The conversion factors which are used to calculate the equivalent square meterage of garments and made-up articles are set out in annex A to this notice.

State trading countries

The 1977 quota levels were set out in notice to importers 1594 (*Trade and Industry*, 24 December 1976, as amended in the issue of 11 February 1977).

UK surveillance licensing arrangements

Imports of most textiles from non-EEC countries which are not subject to quantitative restrictions are subject to UK surveillance licensing arrangements. Descriptions of the goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502.

Imports for re-export

Imports of restricted textiles covered by this notice will not be set off against quotas if they are re-exported outside the UK in the same state or after limited processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in notice to importers 1441.

Inquiries: Licensing – Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644. Korea and Taiwan: ext. 311. Others: ext. 367 or 368. Re-export: Chemicals and Textiles Division (Manchester), Britannic Building, Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2FL, tel. 061-832 5541.

Annex A

Product/Description	Conversion factor m^2/dozen
61.01	
Men's and boys' woven outer garments	
Proofed coats	42.14
Other proofed	19.23
Overalls, boiler suits, bibs, etc	33.11
Other industrial	14.21
Swimwear	8.36
Bathrobes, dressing gowns	42.64
Anoraks, wind cheaters, etc	19.23
Jackets and blazers	19.23
Overcoats, raincoats, etc	42.14
Suits	30.96
Breeches and shorts	9.20
Jeans	11.73
Other trousers	11.73
Other garments	14.21
61.02	
Women's, girls' and infants' woven outer garments	
Babies' garments	11.81
Proofed coats	27.09
Other proofed outerwear	42.14
Aprons, overalls, etc	17.06
Swimwear	18.39
Bathrobes, dressing gowns	42.64
Anoraks, wind cheaters, etc	19.23
Jackets and blazers	19.23
Coats and raincoats	27.09
Suits and costumes	21.07
Dresses	25.08
Skirts	15.05
Trousers and slacks	15.05
Blouses and shirts	12.04
Other garments	11.81
61.03	
Men's and boys' woven under garments	
Shirts	17.80
Other	31.77
61.04	
Women's, girls' and infants' woven under garments	
Pyjamas and nightwear	31.77
Other	13.38
61.05	
Handkerchiefs	1.34
61.06	
Shawls, scarves, etc	6.02
62.02	
Household textiles	
Net curtains	5.89
Bed linen: sheets	5.89
Bed linen: pillow and bolster cases	5.89
Bed linen: bedspreads	4.23
Bed linen: other	4.23
Table linen	5.89
Toilet and kitchen linen:	
of terry towelling	2.86
other	2.86
Curtain and other furnishings	5.89
62.05	
Other made-up articles	5.85

1611: Imports of cotton yarn from Spain

Previous notices have set out the arrangements for importing cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale, within tariff heading 55.05 and originating in Spain, the quotas being allocated on the basis of applicants' statements of past trade.

Traders seeking an allocation to import such cotton yarn originating in Spain during the remainder of 1977 should apply not later than 13 May 1977 to Import Licensing Branch on form ILB/A.

Applications should be accompanied by a statement of past trade by the applicant for each of the years 1974, 1975, 1976 and from 1 January to 31 March 1977, supported by a report by a qualified, practising, independent accountant. Pro-formas for this purpose are available from Import Licensing Branch and applications will only be dealt with on receipt of correctly completed forms.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 268.

Australia drills for offshore gas

Proposed development of the Australian north-west shelf gas fields is probably the largest undertaking ever conceived in Australia and the opportunities for British equipment and expertise should be immense. The western Australian state government and the federal government are expected to announce agreement on the first part of the project shortly. The planning and scope of the proposed development are described in this article* by Mike Lodge, manager, engineering and construction, of the project operating company, Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd.

In 1963 Woodside (Lakes Entrance) Oil NL was granted exploration permits totalling 373,000km², covering nearly 60 per cent of the continental shelf area of north-west Australia. After an aeromagnetic survey was conducted a joint-venture group was formed of Woodside, Shell (Development) Australia and the Burmah Oil Co with BOC of Australia.

More recently, BHP bought the Burmah shareholding of Woodside-Burmah and merged its interest with that of Shell to form North West Shelf Development Pty Ltd, in which BHP and Shell have an equal equity. Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd (formerly Bocal Pty Ltd) is the operating company.

In 1971 the north-west shelf joint venture discovered gas at Scott Reef 270 miles offshore and north of Broome. Next they discovered gas at North Rankin, followed in the same year by the discovery of gas at Goodwyn, and in 1972 they made a further gas discovery at Angel. North Rankin, Goodwyn and Angel are grouped, with North Rankin some 85 miles from shore while Scott Reef is 270 miles offshore. The Scott Reef atoll water depths are in the range of 46m to 76m but the outer margin of the reef is surrounded by water 457m deep as close as 1.6km from the reef, thus posing a specific set of problems. These problems made it unattractive as an immediate development prospect when compared with the North Rankin, Goodwyn and Angel group of fields. Of this group all three fields are located in open ocean conditions with the North Rankin and Goodwyn in 122 to 132m of water and Angel in 90m of water.

Since 1972, Woodside Petroleum Development (formerly Bocal) as operator for the joint venture has been actively engaged in development planning. Extensive studies have been carried out culminating in the submission earlier this year to the western Australian state government and the federal government of the joint venture's proposed development scheme. This scheme calls for the development of the North Rankin field and the transmission of the gas to a shore-based plant for the production of three products: liquefied natural gas (LNG) for export; condensate for shipment to refineries for gasoline production or as petrochemical feedstock; and pipeline specification gas for supply into the western Australian recticulation system for local consumption.

Specifically, the proposed development would consist of the following components: two offshore combination drilling and production platforms on the North Rankin field designated North Rankin A and North Rankin B respectively; submarine pipelines to the onshore treatment plant; onshore treatment plant and ancillaries; storage and loading facilities; port and harbour facilities; onshore pipeline system; and infrastructure.

Offshore platforms

After consideration of all pertinent factors governing platform type, Woodside Petroleum Development has selected as most likely, a 24-well, self-floating, tower-type steel structure. The self-floating tower such as we envisage for the two North Rankin platforms, is constructed lying on its side on two large diameter legs upon which it subsequently floats during the tow from the construction site to its final location. The members from which the tower is constructed are tubular and, apart from their structural capacity, after being sealed they provide buoyancy.

Submarine pipeline

The gas/condensate will be conveyed to shore by a single submarine pipeline which will be in the order of 97cm in diameter or alternatively dual pipelines in the order of 86cm diameter, whichever proves to be appropriate. The design, construction and operation of submarine pipelines requires all the considerations associated with onshore pipelines, plus a further set unique to lines laid on the seabed.

The equipment used to lay submarine pipelines in deep water is known as a 'laybarge'. It is a permanently fitted-out vessel with special equipment for joining pipe sections and handling the pipeline safely to bottom. A typical conventional laybarge is a vessel with a barge-shaped hull about 9m deep, 122m long by 30m wide. On reaching the shallow water, nearing the shore, the submarine pipeline will be buried to protect it from damage from wave action and from ships' anchors. The necessity to bury any of the remainder of the line is dictated by considerations of pipe weight, seabed currents and sea-bottom conditions.

Treatment and processing

The treatment and processing plant will be designed to receive the gas from offshore and perform the following functions: separate the gas from the condensate; remove carbon dioxide and any other undesirable gases and any remaining water; produce liquefied natural gas (LNG); produce pipeline specification gas (mainly methane); produce liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) if required (mainly propane and butane); and produce stabilised natural gas condensate (pentane and heavier).

Peripheral to the treating and processing plant would be the following major installatjons all of which would form an integral part of the total complex: desalination plant; steam raising equipment; electric power plant; nitrogen plant; and cooling water system.

The storage facilities in the onshore plant would be quite extensive, tankage being provided for the following fluids: ballast water (including storage and treatment); slop oil; boiler feedwater; potable water; fire water; fuel oil; lubricating oil; natural gasoline; LPG (possibly); and LNG.

Accommodating the ships

Extensive dredging for shipping channels and ship-turning basins will be required to accommodate the anticipated shipping sizes and frequency.

Initially it is planned to construct three berths. As a first priority, a large-capacity, general cargo service berth would be constructed so that it will be available to handle heavy equipment and materials during the construction of the plant and ancillaries. The other two berths would be for loading of products, one dedicated solely to the loading of LNG and the second for condensate shipment. If LPG is produced it will be handled over the condensate wharf.

Domestic market

The immediate domestic market for north-west shelf gas would appear to be in the Pilbara and it is to the immediate needs of these consumers that consideration will be given in the planning and construction of a gas reticulation system. Preliminary designs for this system have been prepared and the detailed design and construction of these pipe-

* The article is based on the text of a paper presented by Mr Lodge at the 15th annual convention of the Australian Gas Association last October.

Project address

Further planning and evaluation studies on the north-west shelf gas fields project will continue until April next year. Detailed costings will then permit the joint-venture partners to make final decisions on development. Initial contracts for equipment and materials would be placed from July 1978 onwards.

British companies wishing to make known their capabilities for supplies of equipment, materials and services should direct correspondence to the operating company at the following address: The General Manager, Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd, Allendale Square, 77 St George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000, telex. AA 92326, cables. Woodev Perth.

Copies of correspondence should be addressed to the British Consulate-General, 95 St George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 600.

Ocean Digger drilling rig at work on the north-west shelf.

lines will be a straightforward task. The southern line from Dampier to Pinjarra via Dongara and Perth, which will carry the larger quantity of gas for domestic consumption, falls into a different category, in that the financing authority for this line, some 1,448km long, has not yet been determined.

The 'catch all' term, infrastructure, refers to the multitude of miscellaneous tasks which must be performed and these include, but are not limited to, access roads, heliport and hardstands, workshops, stores and offices, water supply, sewerage and drainage, and township facilities.

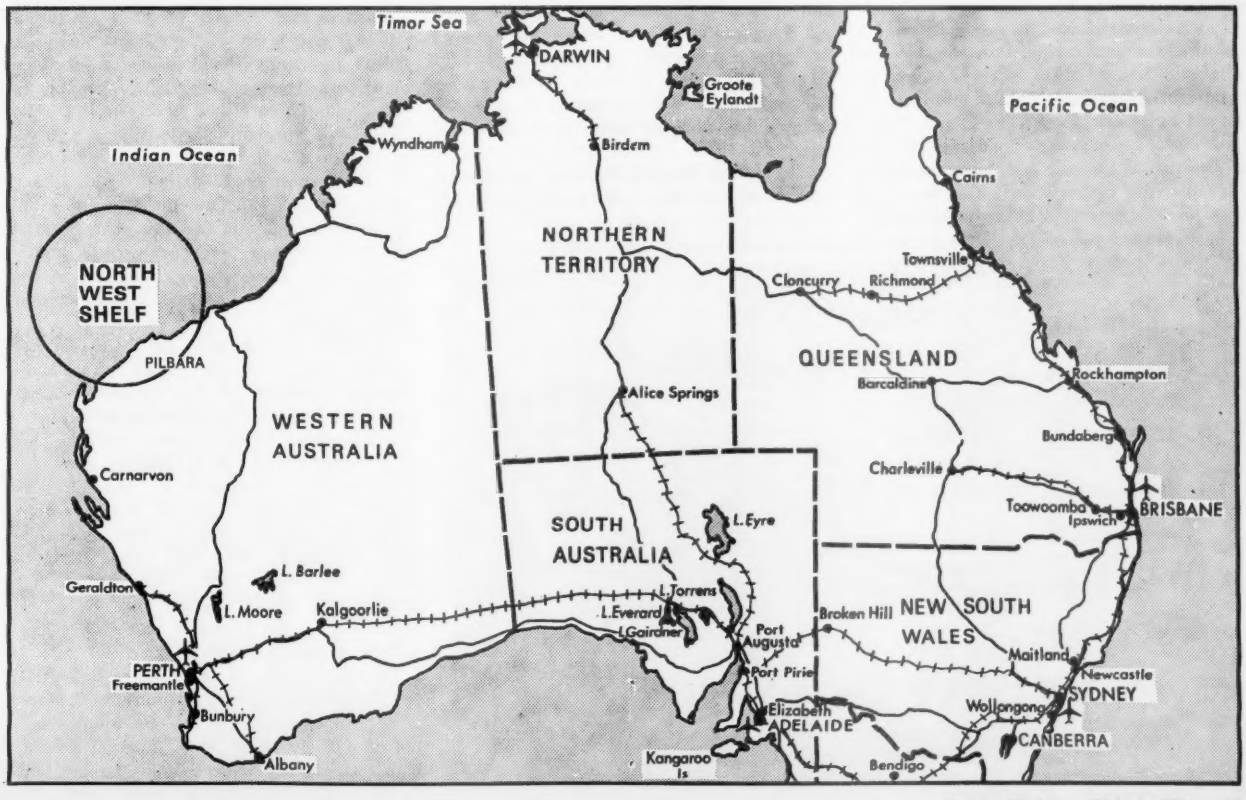
Some of the costs involved, and it is stressed that these are order of magnitude costs rather than final estimates, could be:

Two platforms in 126m of water would cost in the order of		$450 million
The submarine pipelines, about		$220 million
Domestic gas plant	in the order of	$700 million
Liquefaction plant		
Port and harbour facilities		
Infrastructure		

Each LNG tanker costs about $90 million and the number required depends on the rate of production, ship size, and the distance to the consumer's port of delivery.

The shipping costs will vary upward if we supply the north American rather than the Japanese LNG market.

These are 1976 costs which will be spread over about seven years. The final costs will be dependent on the rate of inflation which ensues.



Overseas trade exhibitions

Japan's boat market turns up . . .

From J. W. MacDonald, British embassy, Tokyo

It was with a sense of 'optimistic realism' that nine British companies participated in the sixteenth Tokyo international boat show, held from 31 March to 4 April. This was the fourth joint venture participation organised by the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation (SBBNF) and the British Overseas Trade Board.

Most of the British exhibitors were already established in the market and were in the main therefore looking for the benefits to be obtained from exposure of their products to members of the general public as well as to trade visitors. The exhibitors were gratified to find that attendance this year, at 56,000, was an appreciable increase over the 47,000 who attended in 1976. It was not only the exhibitors who benefited from this – an associated SBBNF mission to Japan took place concurrently with the Tokyo boat show, and members found the opportunities presented for serious business discussions were excellent.

British boats, yachts and accessories have a very high reputation in the Japanese market. Exhibits this year ranged from dinghies and inflatable boats by Dunhill and Avon Inflatables Ltd through leisure clothing exhibited by Henri-Lloyd, Peter Storm Waterproofs Ltd, and a range of marine accessories and wet suits. Dunhill and Avon received a large number of inquiries about their products, and similar successes were reported from other exhibitors.

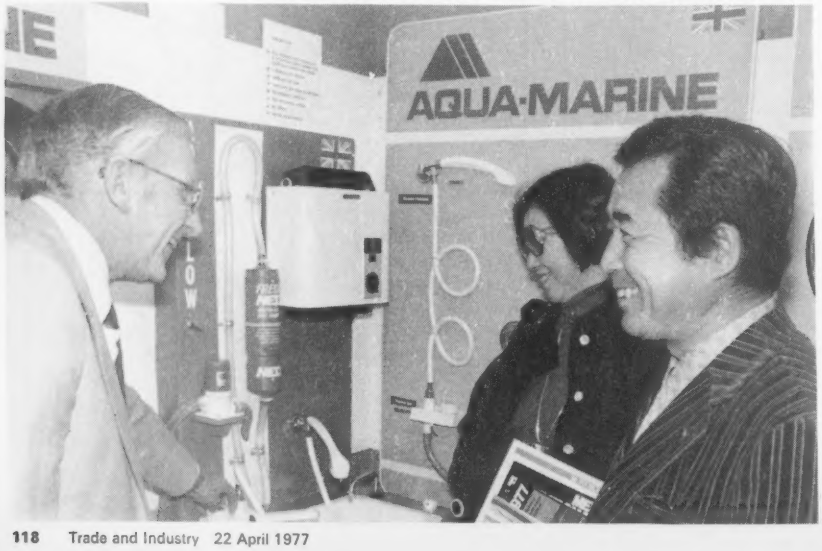
Commenting on the results of the show, Richard Gordon, the SBBNF representative, said that there was 'an air of optimism which far exceeds expectations' and that without exception the exhibitors had expressed a wish to participate in the 1978 event.

Given this spirit of determination to persist in the attempt to penetrate the Japanese market in depth, there is every reason to believe that the British boating industry will be well placed to take advantage of the promised upturn in the Japanese economy and the leisure boat industry.

It is only in recent years that what to an outsider would appear to be an obvious area of leisure in Japan – yachting and pleasure boats – has developed to any extent. Considerable expansion did however take place in 1971 to 1973, in line with the booming Japanese economy. The annual production of pleasure craft in those years was about 24,000 units, and all appeared to be set for a smooth upward curve. The 'oil shock' of 1973 ended all that, however, with consequent serious repercussions on the growth rate of the leisure industry as a whole. Production of leisure craft in 1974 decreased by almost a half, with a further drop of one-third in volume in 1975.

The Japan Boating Industry Association now feels that the worst is over and that, although the spectacular increases in production rate recorded in the past cannot realistically be expected, the signs are that an increasing number of people will make use of the seas surrounding Japan for their leisure activities.

Mr Kerslake of Aquamarine demonstrates his company's products at the Tokyo boat show.



. . . and furniture too

From George Julian, British embassy, Tokyo.

'We will return'. This was the unanimous view of the exhibitors at the third British furniture exhibition held at the British Export Marketing Centre, Tokyo from 5 to 9 April.

There were 12 exhibitors showing a wide range of British furniture. Traditional and quality reproduction furniture was displayed by Traditional Leather Upholstery Ltd, Jaycee, Foster-Len, Devalake (English Maid), H. and E. Dovaston, and the Furniture Craftsmans Co; interesting modern upholstered furniture by HK furniture; well constructed contract and retail furniture by Gordon Russell, attractive and competitively priced modern wall units, cocktail bars and chrome and glass dining room furniture by I. Braget and B. Fertheman. Vision showed white bedroom furniture, and Chippy Heath their wide specialist range of telephone tables.

Several exhibitors were new to the Japanese market or were seeking representation. All established useful contracts to follow up in the week after the exhibition. Most of them sold their displays. This does not necessarily establish continuing business, particularly in Japan, but is a useful indication of interest in British furniture.

Japan is the alternative industrial society. Traditions and business methods are different. Fifteen years ago very few Japanese houses had more than one room furnished in western style – usually the kitchen/dining area, and the furnished bedroom is a relatively new concept. There is now a trend to furnish in western style but to retain one or two traditional rooms with *tatami* matting. The current diffusion rate of living room suites is 32.3 per cent, a trend which is likely to increase with a higher standard of living and an increase in the number of apartment blocks and other new housing starts.

Although western-style furniture was not widely used in houses, Japan has a long-standing tradition of fine cabinet making, and has a well established furniture industry. The Japanese manufacturer produces not only modern and office furniture but also what might be described as '*Meiji* Reproduction'. The Meiji period, during which Japan emerged as a modern state, parallels our Victorian era and was strongly influenced by it. The furniture produced during this period shows this conscious modelling on the Victorian pattern overlaid with a distinctly Japanese character.

Because Japan is a modern industrial country with a vigorous furniture industry it is not an easy market for the foreign exporter. On the other hand Japan is now a high-cost country with a high standard of

living. The Japanese appreciate quality and are intensely brand-conscious. Attractive and well-made imported goods have a special appeal. In common with other western European furniture exports, British furniture has suffered a setback recently in the Japanese market as a result of the oil crisis, overstocking, and imports from south-east Asia. Now that Japan is making a steady recovery from the current trade recession there are good long-term prospects for British furniture here. British furniture has a good reputation in Japan. This exhibition has underlined this impression and shown that our industry has much to offer in addition to our well-known traditional and reproduction furniture.

Presentation, packaging and personal contacts are all very important in Japan. In addition to the individual contacts made discussions were held by the secretary to the British Furniture Manufacturers Federated Association with representatives of the Japanese International Development Association for the Furniture Industry with a view to mutual co-operation and exchange of information.

Attendance at the exhibition compared favourably with previous years and many potentially useful contacts were established. Some exhibitors are already thinking of a private group exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre and all of them believe that by following through with the contacts they have made, they will find a future for their products in Japan.

Biomedical research scientists meet in Chicago

From Norman Olson, British consulate-general, Chicago

Research scientists from across the United States and around the globe converged on Chicago from 3 to 8 April for one of the largest scientific meetings in the world, the sixty-first Annual Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (Faseb).

Faseb represents six federated societies in basic biomedical research disciplines whose members are drawn from all important educational, research and clinical institutions in the United States. The membershhip also includes biologists in basic research from 57 countries.

More than 5,600 scientific papers reporting research findings in the life sciences were presented, with Canada the leading foreign contributor followed by West Germany, the UK, France, Japan and Switzerland. The exhibition was held in Chicago's McCormick Place where 386 companies displayed the equipment and supplies necessary to conduct biomedical research. Total attendance at the meeting was just under 20,000.

The only foreign group exhibit was the British joint venture of nine firms sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association. Most major foreign manufacturers serving the trade were exhibiting through their United States subsidiaries or agents. Faseb is considered a 'must' by participating companies.

Exhibiting for the first time in the United States were Rank Hilger, L. H. Engineering Co and Weighdata. All felt the show very useful in examining the market and determining adjustments to make such as pricing and 'Americanising' trade literature.

Grant Instruments (Cambridge) has been represented at Faseb for a number of years and is expecting strong sales gains based on further market penetration. Techne (Cambridge) is now quite well established in the market with sales nearing $2 million after $300,000 only five years ago. Techne has undertaken a policy of obtaining Underwriter's Laboratories approval and is about to become the first company with UL approved dri. blocks, thermostatic heating systems. Slee Medical Equipment is also expanding their United States business through its associate company, Slee International Inc in New York.

Labquip has been very successful in selling its molecular models direct to universities and now sends about 25 per cent of their output to the United States. Biolab will 'absolutely' continue to exhibit at Faseb where a great deal of interest was created in their line of quick connection lab fittings. Malvern Instruments, which is represented by Malvern Scientific Corp of New York, received many inquiries which the company hopes to turn into sales during the coming year.

Atlantic City, New Jersey, will be the site for the next Faseb annual meeting from 9 to 14 April 1978.

Auto '77: special forum for new ideas

From the British consulate- general, Gothenburg

Gothenburg's fourth international trade fair (Auto '77) which, featured equipment and supplies for petrol stations and motor and tyre repair shops, opened on 30 March and ran for five days. The most important motor trade executives in Sweden took part in a series of conferences and visited the stands of 500 exhibiting companies from 19 countries.

It was a busy show where hundreds of machines and accessories were in constant use and demonstrated to representatives of a vital servicing industry. There are more cars per capita in Sweden than in any other European country. Almost every family owns a car.

At the filling stations labour costs have reduced staff to a minimum, and motorists have to do simple jobs themselves, including filling up with petrol, measuring tyre pressures and washing their cars. But attendants can handle easy repair work and there is therefore a high demand for tools, instruments and machines.

The stringent environmental regulations for repair shops, tighter exhaust demands on motor cars and improved servicing methods generally made Auto '77 a special forum for new products and new ideas. Modern equipment of every description could be studied, for testing and control, for car body repairs, for paint spraying, for hoisting cars and lorries. Special emphasis had been given this year to tyre-handling tools and car-wash equipment, big and small, stationary and mobile.

The British joint-venture stand, sponsored by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the British Overseas Trade Board, was in the main hall. It was attractively designed, and manned by many British representatives and their Swedish agents. Their visitors included technicians and buyers from the main Swedish motor manufacturing companies.

The Warwick Pump and Engineering Co of Oxford displayed their power washers to great advantage. Excellent contacts were made by the two brake specialists, Gandy Frictions Ltd and Ferodo Ltd. Also pleased with results were the manufacturers of other motor accessories: Sabre of Hayes, London Bankside Products of Amersham, Spectra Automotive and Engineering Products Ltd of Haywards Heath, Silent Channel Products of Huntington, and Armstrong Patents of Humberside.

The success of the show was reflected in the attendance of some 14,500 trade visitors, who had been attracted by the wide range of products exhibited. When the fair opens again for the fifth time in 1979 it is expected to contain even more electronic and automatic machinery.

Small, but valuable

From James Graham, British embassy, Dublin

The Irish hardware and housewares trade fair 1977 was held in the main exhibition hall of the Royal Dublin Society from 28 to 31 March.

The fair, which was trade only, came a fortnight after a public brighter homes and d-i-y exhibition at the same venue, and the two shows presented a wide selection of gardening, cleaning, home improvement, cooking, leisure and allied items.

Among the 115 exhibitors there was a joint venture of 16 British firms under the auspices of the Hardware Manufacturers Association, occupying an attractive cluster of stands in the centre of the hall.

Attendance was thin compared with other European exhibition centres, but several valuable inquiries were received and most exhibitors regarded the show as very useful for public relations.

The fair was opened by John Bruton, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and was sponsored by the Irish Hardware Association.

British advances in medicine on show in Libya

Fifteen British pharmaceutical firms will demonstrate the latest developments in specific medication in Libya at seminars to be held in Benghazi from 26 to 28 April and Tripoli 3 to 5 May.

The seminars, organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, will be supported by an exhibition of products developed by the participating companies.

Overseas trade export successes

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

TCL wins £104m Nigerian cable contract

A contract, worth £104 million, for the planning and installation of telephone cable networks in 35 towns in northern Nigeria has been awarded to Telephone Cables (TCL) of Dagenham, a principal subsidiary of the General Electric Co by the Nigerian federal government. The contract is the third in Nigeria for TCL and is part of the current Nigerian five-year national development plan.

The first major contract for TCL in Nigeria, signed in March 1975, was for the improvement of the telephone cable network, together with the provision of some junction cable, in and around the capital city, Lagos. The second contract awarded in 1976 and worth £33 million covered the supply, installation and conversion of cable networks in six principal towns in the north of Nigeria; Kano, Kaduna, Maiduguri, Jos, Bida and Minna.

This third contract extends this work to a further 35 towns in Kaduna and Bauchi Zones in northern Nigeria.

The contract, as well as detailed survey, includes all civil engineering and installation work and covers cable distribution from exchange to final distribution point on telephone poles or in buildings.

The civil engineering work and the installation of the cable networks will be undertaken by TCL working in close collaboration with the Nigerian Ministry of Communication.

Further information: circle 279

Major African order for Alcad

A £165,000 contract from Angola has been won by Chloride Alcad Ltd of Redditch, Worcestershire – a member of the Chloride Group.

The order, placed through Plessey Automatica Electrica Portuguesa with the Angolan PTT, is for 107 nickel-cadmium batteries which are to be used for generator starting and emergency power within the developing Angolan national telecommunications microwave network.

Primary electrical power for the systems is being provided by 28 turbine generator stations and 18 diesel alternator stations all of which are being fitted with Alcad batteries for starting duties. Other Alcad batteries of up to 640Ah capacity will provide power for the system for up to 12 hours in the event of a primary supply failure. These include standby systems at 16 vhf stations.

The batteries will be sited in 65 remote installations throughout Angola. The £4.5 million microwave system is being developed by five international companies of which Chloride Alcad is one.

Further information: circle 280

Guinea switches on to television

The Republic of Guinea is to begin television broadcasting this year with a studio equipped by Marconi Communication Systems, a GEC-Marconi Electronics company.

The studio will contain three Mark V monochrome television cameras, and Marconi is also supplying the lighting and sound facilities as well as an air-conditioning system. In addition the company will provide training in the use of the equipment. The installation, in the capital Conakry, should be complete by August. However, a temporary installation will be in use by 14 May, in time for the independence day anniversary celebrations.

Further information: circle 281

Hunting to survey Sudan minerals

The regional government of the southern region of the Sudan has retained Hunting Geology and Geophysics to undertake mineral surveys over 30,000km² of southern Sudan. The contract is valued at approximately £370,000.

A team of four geologists from Hunting will be searching the area for a variety of metallic minerals as well as a number of industrial minerals such as limestones, asbestos, clays and talc, which may form the basis for local industrial development.

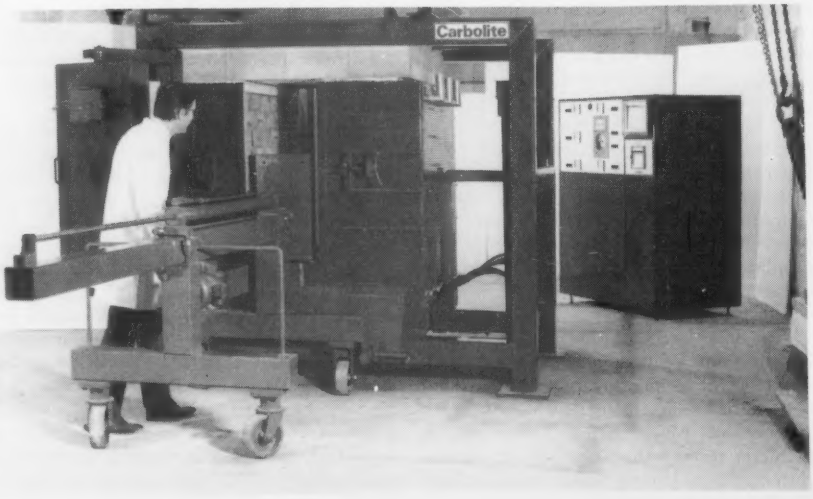
The contract follows a reconnaissance survey carried out by the company throughout the southern Sudan during 1976, in which a number of target zones for further exploration were identified. Work on the new project has just started.

Further information: circle 282

UK furnace for Belgian research centre

A final check for the £50,000 variable-width, high-temperature coal research furnace before it left Carbolite Co Ltd, of Sheffield – ahead of schedule – for the Centre de Recherches Metallurgiques, Liege, Belgium. The furnace will measure the swelling of coal samples during coking, charge shrinkage and the effect of varying oven widths. Charged with granulated and graded coals, it operates under controlled conditions with chambers which can be set to vary in width from 14 in to 22 in. Temperatures can be set between 750°C and 1,400°C from a separate panel.

Further information: circle 283



R-R Middle East contracts

Rolls-Royce Ltd has been awarded contracts in the Middle East for gas turbine electrical generating equipment valued at over £9 million. New orders have been received from a wide variety of customers in Iran and Saudi Arabia for sets to be installed at a steel works, a fertiliser processing plant, a hospital and an airport.

The five sets ordered have a total output capability of 120,000kW and consist of four SK20 (20,000kW) units and one SK40 (40,000kW) package.

All the gas-turbine generating sets are based on the successful range of Rolls-Royce Olympus-powered packaged power stations, sales of which have already been made to Iran, Malawi, Australia and Japan.

Further information: circle 284

Parolle equipment for Qatar

A £6.8 million order has been awarded to Parolle Ltd (the project engineering company of the Reyrolle Parsons Group) for electrical equipment for a further stage of the Ras Abu Fontas power and water station in the State of Qatar.

The contract has been received from Kraftwerk Union of Germany who are supplying the gas turbines and acting as main contractors to the Qatar Ministry of Electricity and Water. The consultants for the complete project are Ewbank and Partners Ltd, Brighton.

Under the contract, Parolle is responsible for the supply of distribution and control equipment for the power station auxiliaries and the main feeds to the associated water distillation plant. The equipment includes high-voltage and medium-voltage switchgear, motor control centres, transformers, and battery-chargers, and Parolle is also responsible for cabling and earthing.

Further information: circle 285

Generators for Turkey

An order from Turkey for 104 generating sets valued at £358,000 has been won by Dawson-Keith of Havant. The diesel generators, mainly to base-load specification, range in output from 20 to 100kVA. The order has come from the Dawson-Keith agent in Istanbul, Cukurova Ticaret Ltd, and deliveries are scheduled to cover the next eight-month period.

Further information: circle 286

First oven orders flown out

First overseas orders for Berry Magicoal's new space-saving Minorovens were dispatched to Saudi Arabia last month. The Saudi Arabian Minister of Defence had ordered 618 for a housing development. Now 1,200 Minorcooks are being supplied for a housing project in Zambia. Other orders have been received from Gibraltar, Malta, Doha, Qatar, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Seychelles, Hong Kong, Dubai, Nigeria.

Berry Magicoal is probably better known as a manufacturer of electric fires but as part of a general diversification has added a range of electric cookers, grills and ovens.

To assist in the world-wide marketing of these new products Berry Magicoal has retained A. Hurst and Co. – a member of the Arbuthnot Latham group. Hurst is experienced in opening up overseas markets for electrical appliances.

Further information: circle 287

Extension to Iran power station

A £2.4 million extension to a power station now under construction in south-east Iran is to be supplied by Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering of Burton on the Wolds. The company received a contract for a 16.8MW generating station in Iranshahr in 1976 and this is due for completion this year. The extension will bring its total installed capacity to 28MW.

The contract was awarded by the South East Regional Electric Co of Iran as part of the development of the area.

Further information: circle 288

More scanners for Japan

Another order worth £7.4 million for more than 40 EMI-Scanner systems for Japan has been announced by EMI Medical Ltd of Slough. It brings EMI's orders for that market to over £21 million, of which £15 million have been gained in the last seven months.

Under this new contract, EMI will supply both EMI-Scanner CT 5005 general-purpose, whole-body scanners and CT 1010 systems for brain examination. The order was placed by Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co Ltd (Toshiba) which handles the marketing, distribution and installation of EMI-Scanner systems in Japan.

This latest contract brings to over 130 the number of EMI-Scanners ordered for Japanese hospitals. Some 60 are already in clinical use there.

Further information: circle 289

Pollution control for USSR

The Old Trafford-based air pollution control division of Tilghman Wheelabrator has won a £120,000 order to extend a fume control plant at a ferro-alloy works in the USSR.

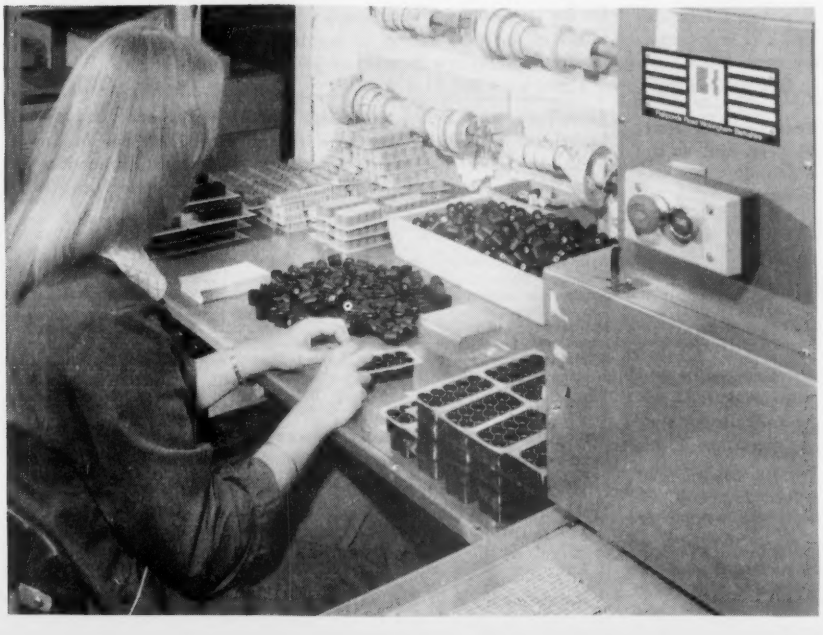
The extension has been designed by Tilghman and all the major specialist parts of the plant will be made by them.

Further information: circle 290

Sifam knobs for Sweden

Part of a contract from Sweden for 40,000 special collet knobs for use on control panels for welding equipment, being packed by the Accessories Division of Sifam, Torquay. The contract is from Esab of Laxa, Sweden, one of the largest and best-known manufacturers of welding plant in the world.

Further information: circle 291



Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Payment terms for capital goods. A report received from Buenos Aires states that Central Bank circular RC 641, 6 July 1976, dealing with capital goods has been revoked and replaced by circular RC 688. The main points of circular 688 are reported to be as follows:

Value of import

From US $	To US $	Cancellation	Payment of first instalment
—	50,000	Cash	
50,000	250,000	One year	6 months from shipment date
250,000	500,000	Two years	6 months from shipment date
500,000	1 million	Three years	6 months from shipment date
1 million	1.5 million	Four years	12 months from shipment date
1.5 million	2 million	Five years	12 months from shipment date
Over 2 million		Subject to approval of Central Bank	

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Brooms and brushes: location and dates of public hearings. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 8 October 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on brooms and brushes.

Public hearings on this inquiry will be held at the following locations and dates:

Melbourne: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, commencing 10.0am, Tuesday, 17 May 1977;
Adelaide: Federal Court of Australia, 9th Floor, AMP Building, 1 King William Street, commencing 10.00am, Friday, 20 May 1977; and
Sydney: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commision, 16th Floor, Plaza Building, 59 Goulburn Street, commencing 10.00am, Monday, 23 May 1977

Any person who intends to make representations on the goods under reference and has not yet submitted these to the Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, should do so as soon as possible.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 1739/76

Industries Assistance Commission inquiry into paradichlorobenzene. The Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs has asked the Industries Assistance Commission to inquire into and report on the by-law admission of paradichlorobenzene, sub-item 29.02.1 in schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff Act 1966.

Further details will be published as soon as they are available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 678/77

Industries Assistance Commission references on footwear, textiles and clothing. Six new references have been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission by the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs:

1 Footwear – supersedes reference of 18 October 1974 subsequently amended 25 November 1975
2 Clothing – supersedes reference of 23 October 1973
3 Fabrics for use as bed sheeting, etc – supersedes reference of 13 May 1976
4 Textile yarns, fabrics and related products – supersedes reference of 23 April 1976, amended 11 June 1976
5 Acetate and other fibres and yarns – supersedes reference of 27 July 1976
6 Certain man-made fibres, yarns and fabrics – supersedes reference of 11 June 1976

The tariff items covered under each of the new references remain the same as those they supersede and the reporting date for each stays at 30 September 1977. The reason for the new references is that the Minister has asked the commission to:

Report on the employment effects of its recommendations, including their effects on employment in decentralised locations;

Relate any recommendations for change to the capacity of the economy to absorb the changes involved; and

Report on the assistance required to maintain the present level of activity and employment in the production of the goods under reference and, if a lower level of assistance is recommended by the commission, the reasons why it does not recommend the assistance required to maintain the present level of activity and employment.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Further details on each separate reference will be published as soon as possible.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref: 1 CRE 672/77
2 CRE 673/77
3 CRE 674/77
4 CRE 675/77
5 CRE 676/77
6 CRE 677/77

Industries Assistance Commission reference: brassieres. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 14 January, reported continuing tariff quotas on brassieres pending a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) on long-term assistance.

The Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs has now asked the IAC to inquire and report whether assistance should be accorded the production in Australia of goods of a kind falling within items 61.09 or 98.13 of schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff Act 1966, as proposed to be altered, and, if so, the nature and extent of such assistance.

The minister has also requested the commission to:

1 report on the employment effects of its recommendations, including their effects on employment in decentralised locations;
2 relate any recommendations for change to the capacity of the economy to absorb the changes involved; and
3 to report on the assistance required to maintain the present level of activities and employment in the production of the goods under reference and, if a lower level of assistance is recommended by the commission, the reasons why it does not recommend the assistance required to maintain the present level of activity and employment.

The commission is to report by 30 September 1977.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing, the date and location of which will be published as soon as it is known, should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia, without delay. Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1, tel. 01-930 2524, which will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 671/77

Jewellery and other precious metal-ware, etc: dates and locations of public hearings. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 4 February, reported that the Industries Assistance Commission was in a position to proceed with the inquiry on jewellery and other precious metal-wares, etc.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations and times:

Sydney: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, 59 Gouldburn Street, commencing 10.00am, Wednesday, 13 April 1977;
Brisbane: Conference Room, Lower Ground Floor, Australian Government Centre, 295 Ann Street, commencing 10.00am, Friday, 15 April 1977;
Melbourne: Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, commencing Monday, 18 April 1977;
Adelaide: Bankruptcy Court, AMP Building, 8th Floor, 1 King William Street, commencing 10 00am, Wednesday, 20 April 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref: CRE 1730/76

Anti-dumping: vinyl acetate monomer. An application has been received by the Australian Bureau of Customs from Australian industry for anti-dumping action to be taken against imports of vinyl acetate monomer.

The Australian customs representative in London has been asked to carry out the necessary inquiries to establish a normal value for these goods.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref: CRE 36493

Bahamas

Tariff amendments. By Act 1 of 1977, the Bahamas authorities have amended certain tariff items as follows:

Tariff no	Description	Rate of duty
01.05.8	Baby chicks (young of domestic fowl)	Free
02.02	Dead poultry (that is to say, fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls) and edible offals thereof (except liver), fresh, chilled or frozen	
02.02.1	Chicken (fowl) and chicken parts	12½% *ad valorem* $25.00 per 100 lb
02.02.9	Other	12½% *ad valorem* $1.00 per 100 lb
49.03	Children's picture books and painting books	Free

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Bahrain

Weights and measures. According to an Amiri Decree dated 20 February 1977 the State of Bahrain has now adopted the metric system of weights and measures.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/473.

Barbados

Roots and tubers: import licensing. By SI 1977 No. 55, the Barbados authorities have announced that the following goods now require an import licence:

Tariff no	Description of commodity
07.06	Yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, dasheens, tannias, cassava (manioc), other

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Belgium

Mineral oils, benzol and analogous products. A decree dated 25 March 1977 (*Moniteur Belge* 62, 29 March), amends the excise duty on mineral oils, benzol and analogous products.

Copies of this decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Bread and other bakers' wares. A decree dated 22 March 1977 (*Moniteur Belge* 62, 29 March 1977), modifies the decree of 31 August 1976 on bread and other bakers' wares.

Copies of this decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Canada

Investigation into imports of footwear. *Trade and Industry*, 1 April 1977, reported that the Canadian anti-dumping tribunal was to carry out an inquiry into imports of leather and vinyl footwear into Canada.

The anti-dumping tribunal has begun the inquiry and will hold public hearings in May at a time and place to be announced. Copies of briefs or submissions relating to the inquiry (25 copies) should be with the Secretary of the Tribunal by 6 May.

Confidential information should be marked 'Confidential to the Tribunal' and 10 copies filed separately with the Secretary by 6 May. Anyone proposing to give evidence or make representations at the hearing should notify the Secretary by the 6 May.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Cyprus

Import levy. *Trade and Industry*, 18 March, announced a special levy of 2 per cent on most imports into Cyprus. The Ministry of Finance has now announced that the charge will be 1½ per cent *ad valorem* on imports from the EEC.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/462/472/473.

Dominican Republic

Amendment to the internal tax. Law 571 increases the internal tax on passenger vehicles. The tax is levied on the fob value and is applicable as follows:

Passenger vehicles, including station wagons.

1 Passenger vehicles with a cylinder capacity of up to 2,300 cc:	
1.1 Up to RD $3,000 fob value	50% *ad val.*
1.2 Of more than RD $3,000 fob value	60% *ad val.*
1.3 Spare parts and accessories for vehicles included in 1.1 and 1.2	20% *ad val.*
2 Passenger vehicles with a cylinder capacity of between 2,300 and 3,300cc:	
2.1 Up to RD $3,000 fob value	60% *ad val.* plus RD $1,000 per unit
2.2 Of more than RD $3,000 fob value	70% *ad val.* plus RD $1,500 per unit
2.3 Spare parts and accessories for vehicles included in 2.1 and 2.3	20% *ad val.*
3 Passenger vehicles with a cylinder capacity of between 3,300 and 4,300cc:	
3.1 Up to RD $3,000 fob value	70% *ad val.* plus RD $2,000 per unit
3.2 Of more than RD $3,000 fob value	90% *ad val.* plus RD $3,000 per unit
3.3 Spare parts and accessories for vehicles included in 3.1 and 3.3	20% *ad val.*
4 Passenger vehicles with a cylinder capacity of more than 4,300cc:	
4.1 Up to RD $3,000 fob value	90% *ad val.* plus RD $4,000 per unit
4.2 Of more than RD $3,000 fob value	110% *ad val.* plus RD $6,000 per unit
4.3 Spare parts and accessories for vehicles included in 4.1 and 4.2	20% *ad val*

Passenger vehicles (including station wagons) will pay 75 per cent of the tax shown above when equipped with a diesel motor.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Finland

Excise taxes. The Finnish authorities have announced amendments to the rates of excise tax levied on the following goods:

Certain foodstuffs; soft drinks; fertilisers; fuels; margarine and tobacco

A new tax has also been introduced on animal feedstuffs.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Republic of Ireland

Hydrocarbon oils. Under the provisions of section 7(1) of Finance Act, 1901, as extended by paragraph 18(1) of the Imposition of Duties (No. 221) (Excise Duties) Order 1975, the excise (import) duty at the net rate of 2p per gallon imposed by section 40 of the Finance Act, 1976, is chargeable on hydrocarbon oils contained as a part or ingredient in certain imported manufactured goods. This duty is in addition to any customs duty which may be chargeable on the goods and has immediate effect. The goods affected are:

Paints, varnishes, hydrocarbon solvents (eg resins dissolved in hydrocarbon oils) and similar goods of tariff heading 32.09 A;

Firelighters (tariff heading 36.08);

Oil-filled transformers (tariff heading 85.01 B)

This list is subject to alteration from time to time.

Import procedures: Each import entry for the goods listed above should bear a declaration as to the quantity of hydrocarbon oil contained as a part or ingredient in the goods and of the category of oil involved (mineral hydrocarbon light oil or hydrocarbon oil, other sorts). This declaration should be supported by a written statement from the manufacturer or supplier of the goods and it may be incorporated in

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

the commercial invoice, if convenient. If a written statement is not available at the time an entry is made, goods will, for the time being, be cleared if the information is otherwise considered satisfactory, on the basis that such a statement will be forthcoming without delay. Later, such importations should be accompanied by the necessary statement.

For goods containing mineral hydrocarbon light oil, the net duty at the rate of 2p per gallon should be shown in the excise (import) column of the entry.

For goods containing hydrocarbon oil, other sorts, the full amount of the duty on such oil (£0.1773 per gallon at present), the amount of the rebate allowable on the grounds that the oil is not intended for use for combustion in the engine of a road vehicle (£0.1573 per gallon) and the net duty payable at 2p per gallon should be shown in the excise (import) column of the entry.

Any additional information required may be obtained from any Collector of Customs and Excise or from the Secretary, Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2, quoting notice 1436.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Jordan

Financing of projects. UK firms interested in projects in Jordan may like to know that details regarding the source for financing projects is often available and can be obtained either direct from the British Embassy (Commercial Section), King Hussein Street (PO Box 6062), Amman or through Commercial Relations and Exports Division, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5220.

New Zealand

Industries Development Commission reports. Copies of the following New Zealand Development Commission reports are now available.

358: Certain paper and paper board on tariff headings 48.01, 48.03, 48.04, 48.05, 48.07, 48.15 (48.07 refers to fruit wrapping tissue paper).
367: Certain paper and paper board on tariff headings 48.06 and 48.07 (48.07 refers to tariff item 48.07.059 – printing and writing papers – other kinds – other in rolls or sheets – other than as may be determined).
1976/4: Certain woven polyester and warp knitted curtain and dress net fabrics.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321.

Nigeria

Customs tariff and import restrictions. Notices published in *Trade and Industry*, 15 April, page 76, gave notice of tariff changes and import restrictions. The following legal notices have now been published and take effect from 1 April.

Tariff changes: Legal notice 15 amends schedule 1 and schedule 2 of the Customs Tariff Consolidation Decree 1973 affecting the following tariff numbers:

10.03, 11.02, 12.06, 16.04, 22.08, 22.09, 28.03, 28.45, 29.04, 29.15, 35.01, 39.02, 39.03, 39.04, 39.05, 39.06, 40.02, 40.05, 40.07, 40.08, 40.11, 41.08, 48.13
51.04, 53.03, 53.05, 53.09, 55.07, 55.08, 55.09, 56.01, 56.07, 57.10, 57.11, 57.12, 58.05, 58.07, 59.01, 59.03, 59.07, 59.08, 59.09, 59.11, 59.12, 59.17, 60.01, 60.03, 60.04, 60.05, 60.06, 61.01, 61.02, 61.03, 61.04, 61.05, 61.06, 61.10, 62.01, 64.01, 64.02, 64.03, 64.04, 66.01, 69.01, 69.02, 69.03
70.04, 70.05, 70.06, 73.10, 73.13, 73.14, 73.17, 73.18, 73.23, 73.25, 73.36, 73.38, 75.02, 76.02, 76.04, 76.16, 82.10, 82.11, 83.13, 83.15, 84.61, 85.03, 85.06, 85.20, 85.24, 87.02, 87.12, 92.12, 98.02, 98.08

Import restrictions: Legal notice 16 gives details of the Import Prohibition Order, 1977. This notice sets out the prohibition and restriction of certain goods into Nigeria.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

Portugal

Import surcharges. *Diario da Republica* 76, 31 March, published decree-law 122-A/77 which announced the continuation of the import surcharge system, first introduced in May 1975, until 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459/461.

Singapore

Tariff amendments for beverages, vinegar spirits and tobacco. The Singapore government has issued the Customs Duties (Amendment no. 3) Order 1977 which came into effect on 28 February whereby various amendments have been made to certain tariff items in chapter 22 (beverages, spirits and vinegar), and chapter 24 (tobacco) in the Singapore Trade Classification and Customs Duties.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 25 March.

R428 CCCN 85.08, 87.02 and 87.04: The rate of duty on starter motors with a rating not exceeding 2kW and parts thereof (excluding commutators and starter motor drives) identifiable for use solely or principally with motor vehicles, as well as such starter motors imported with unassembled motor vehicles classifiable in subheadings 87.02.15, 87.02.22, 87.02.24 and 87.02.60 and unassembled chassis classifiable in subheading 87.04.25 is amended from 5,000cc per 100kg to 20 per cent or 90c per kg.

R429 CCCN 48.07, 85.19 and 85.26: 1 The rate of duty on certain electrostatic paper and paperboard used for photocopying is reduced from 15 per cent to free. 2 Specific provisions, for statistical purposes, are made for certain electrical apparatus and insulating fittings of porcelain.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R430 Item 308.01, 310.08, 312.01, 315.03, 315.14 CCCN 32.09. The provisions for a rebate of duty on:
1 water pigments, of a kind used for finishing leather, and pigments in linseed oil or other paints or enamel media, for use in the leather tanning and finishing industry.
2 varnish, for use in the printing, publishing and book-binding industry.
3 prepared water pigments, of a kind used for finishing leather in the footwear industry.
4 stoving varnishes and lacquers, for use in the metal container industry, and
5 varnishes and lacquers, for use in the closures and closure lining industry are withdrawn.

GENERAL REBATES

R431 Item 410.04. CCCN 27.10: Provision is made for a rebate of the full customs duty on distillate fuels and residual fuel oils for use as engine fuel in tugs registered in the republic.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 10/77, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 15 April 1977, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Ammonia, anhydrous or in aqueous solution classifiable under tariff heading 28.16.
2 Filter papers of a type used in industrial filters of a thickness exceeding 2mm classifiable under tariff heading 48.15.20.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

European community news

Lomé's practical co-operation – Dell

The success of the arrangements for stabilising export earnings (Stabex) is an example of the practical co-operation and effective action which is possible under the Lomé convention, said Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, in Suva in Fiji, on 13 April. He was speaking at the second meeting of the ACP-EEC council of ministers on 13 and 14 April where, as president of the EEC council of ministers, he took the chair on behalf of the community.

A few months after the convention entered into force, Mr Dell explained, the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) states had been indemnified, in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down under Stabex, for income losses suffered the previous year. The same procedure would apply this year for losses incurred in 1976. The system had worked swiftly and efficiently thus proving that any doubts which might have been expressed about its application were unfounded. The ACP governments and the commission had worked closely together to achieve this success.

Another field in which the convention was beginning to operate was that of industrial co-operation. Machinery had now been set up which should help to promote industrial development in ACP states by means of schemes involving co-operation between ACP states and community member states. The necessary administration had been ready for several months, and more than 500 million units of account had been committed for the financing of projects and action programmes in the first year. These projects had been selected in accordance with priorities agreed with ACP states themselves and in the context of their own plans or programmes. The results had yet to be considered by the council of ministers, but the evidence so far suggested that they were highly satisfactory.

It would however be of little use encouraging development in the economies of ACP states, said Mr Dell, if the community market were not at the same time open to ACP products. Virtually all these products were in fact freely imported into the community, without customs duties or quantitative restrictions of any kind, and subject only to a number of special procedures for certain agricultural products. This was a significant concession, without parallel in world trade, which the community granted only to a limited number of other countries, and which went much further than the generalised preference scheme.

With regard to sugar, Mr Dell continued, the reciprocal price and supply guarantee could represent a significant cost on the community, itself a sugar producer, 'but these are costs which we accept willingly in view of our obligations under the convention and the paramount importance of sugar production and exports for the ACP sugar-producing states'.

The Lomé convention as it stood was deliberately weighted in favour of the ACP states. For example, the principle of trade reciprocity included in the Yaoundé convention was not a feature of this convention. This lack of reciprocity was justified by the respective levels of development of the economies concerned and was therefore accepted by the community. It was an expression of the wish to assist development in the ACP countries.

'We are well aware that the application of the Lomé convention can be further improved. We are prepared to examine all suggestions for such improvements. But the ACP states have sometimes made proposals which go beyond the scope of the Lomé convention,' Mr Dell emphasised. 'We for our part have tried to act as positively as possible. Sometimes we have sought alternative solutions, especially where these appeared justified by the situation in the countries making the request'.

'The community had frequently emphasised its readiness to hold consultations on matters likely to affect the interests of ACP states, and had been concerned not simply to fulfil a purely formal obligation, but to find where possible mutually satisfactory solutions,' Mr Dell concluded.

UK plans changeover to EEC egg grading system

It is now right for the UK to plan to make the necessary changeover to the EEC system of grading eggs by the end of this year, Edward Bishop, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced on 6 April.

He said that this had been agreed by representatives of all sectors of the UK trade and a representative of the Consumers Association, who had met officials of his department on 24 March.

The industry saw advantage in carrying through the change during a limited period and envisaged that this should be in the autumn. The aim would be to make the changeover as smooth and trouble-free as possible.

Mr Bishop explained that a five-weight grade system for eggs was currently in use in the UK and it was agreed that when the UK joined the community the EEC seven-weight system would be adopted. But a five-year derogation was allowed to give the industry time to adapt and this would end on 31 December this year.

Financial aid for steel research projects

A memorandum for a programme of technical research on steel has been approved by the commission and sent to both the European Coal and Steel Community's consultative committee and to the council.

The programme covers 74 projects, the results of which will help to improve productivity in the manufacture and processing of steel; reduce manufacturing and processing costs; improve the quality of steel products and extend steel utilisation to new applications and thereby boost demand.

Community financial aid is available under the provisions of article 55 of the ECSC treaty which calls upon the commission to encourage technical and economic research relating to the production and increased use of coal and steel and to occupational safety in the coal and steel industries. The results of the research envisaged will be made available to all those concerned within the community.

The research will be financed by means of levies. The total cost of the programme will be 30 million European units of account. The total amount of financial aid from the commission will be 18.7mua, of which 18.1mua will be accounted for by contributions to the research costs and 544,980ua by the cost of disseminating the knowledge gained. Appropriations from the ECSC operating budget for 1977 totalling 16.5mua have been earmarked for steel research and these will cover the financing of 69 projects. If additional appropriations were to be drawn from the ECSC operating budget for 1977 for the financing of steel research projects, the other projects would be given priority consideration.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408. Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decision which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. Regulation (EEC) 651/77 amending regulation (EEC) 557/76 as regards the exchange rate to be applied in agriculture for the French franc, the Irish pound and the Italian lira (*Official Journal* L82, 31 March 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 698/77 amending regulation (EEC) 571/76 following the fixing of new exchange rates to be applied in France, Ireland and Italy in agriculture (*Official Journal* L85, 1 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 723/77 amending regulation (EEC) 557/76 as regards the exchange rate to be applied in agriculture for the Danish kroner (*Official Journal* L88, 6 April 1977).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 648/77 extending the 1976/77 milk year and amending regulations (EEC) 1961/75 and (EEC) 3068/75 (*Official Journal* L82, 31 March 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 650/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1807/76 on the granting of special aid for liquid skimmed milk for use as feedingstuffs for certain animals affected by drought (*Official Journal* L82, 31 March 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 680/77 amending for the fifth time regulation (EEC) 2044/75 as regards the period of validity of export certificates for certain milk products (*Official Journal* L84, 1 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 681/77 amending regulation (EEC) 2054/76 on the sale for export to third countries of skimmed-milk powder held by intervention agencies and intended for use as feed (*Official Journal* L84, 1 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 706/77 supplementing regulation (EEC) 2044/75 as regards export licences for butter and amending regulation (EEC) 210/69 (*Official Journal* L86, 2 April 1977).

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L89, 7 April 1977, contains the following correction to the above regulation (EEC) 707/77:
Page 13, article 3, second paragraph:
for: 'It shall apply from 10 May 1977',
read: 'It shall apply until 10 May 1977.'

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 649/77 extending the 1976/77 marketing year for beef and veal (*Official Journal* L82, 31 March 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 682/77 repealing regulations (EEC) 1062/74, (EEC) 1603/74 and (EEC) 1100/74 concerning certain safeguard measures taken in the beef sector (*Official Journal* L84, 1 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 683/77 establishing a list of the products of the beef and veal sector to which arrangements for the advance fixing of export refunds may apply (*Official Journal* L84, 1 April 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 684/77 fixing the amounts by which import charges on beef and veal originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States are to be reduced (*Official Journal* L84, 1 April 1977).

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L85, 1 April 1977, contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 644/77 (published in *Official Journal* L81, 30 March 1977) laying down special rules for the application of accession compensatory amounts with a view to preventing deflections of trade in beef and veal:
Page 10, second recital:
for: 'Having regard to council regulation (EEC) 430/77 of 14 February 1977 laying down general rules for the system of compensatory amounts for beef and veal(1), and in particular the first paragraph of article 10 thereof,',
read: 'Having regard to council regulation (EEC) 181/73 of 23 January 1973 laying down general rules for a system of compensatory amounts for beef and veal(2), and in particular the first paragraph of article 14 thereof.'.

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 712/77 amending the annex to regulation (EEC) 2518/70 as regards the fixing of the representative wholesale markets or ports for fishery products (*Official Journal* L87, 5 April 1977).

Animal health. Decision 77/268/EEC concerning certain measures to prevent the spread of classical swine fever (*Official Journal* L87, 5 April 1977).

Seeds and plants. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* C80, 31 March 1977, contains the text of the third complete edition of the common catalogue of varieties of vegetable species. Copies of *Official Journal* C80, may be obtained from HMSO, price £3.27 plus postage.

New EEC documents

This list of EEC documents was deposited in the House of Commons during the week ended 14 April (commission reference numbers, where appropriate, are given in parentheses). The documents are available for consultation at the European Communities Commission Information Office at 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

EEC draft instruments

R/705/77 (COM(77)74)
Proposal for a Council Decision subscribing on behalf of the Community, to a joint declaration of intent to implement a European project in the field of transport on the subject: 'Electronic traffic aids on major roads (Cost Project 30)'.

S/525/77 (COM(77)70)
Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the arrangements to be applied as from 29th April 1977 to the import of Greek wines into the Member States.

S/535/77 (COM(77)84)
Proposal for a Council Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for hazelnuts originating in Turkey.

R/720/77 (COM(77)88)
Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 76/402/EEC on the level of interest rate subsidy provided for in Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernisation of farms to be applied in Italy.

R/760/77 (COM(77)81)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for processing work in relation to certain textile products under the outward processing traffic arrangements of the Community.

S/531/77 (COM(77)86)
Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1599/75 and 706/76 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories.

S/563/77 (COM(77)104)
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) maintaining the arrangements for the authorisation of imports into France and into the United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted undergarments originating in the Kingdom of Thailand or the Republic of the Philippines.

R/792/77 (COM(77)93)
Proposal for a Council Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernisation of farms.

Consultative documents

R/611/77
Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective products.

R/687/77 (COM(77)20)
Overall assessment of Community budgetary problems.

R/612/77 (COM)(77)53)
Draft Commission Decision amending Decision No. 25-67 of 22nd June 1967 laying down in implementation of Article 66(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community a regulation concerning exemption from prior authorisation.

R/655/77 (COM(77)112)
Proposal for the transfer of appropriations between chapters within the Commission budget estimates for the financial year 1976 (Guarantee Section of the EAGGF – Article 113 of the Financial Regulation).

R/684/77 (COM(77)71)
Community approach to refining problems within the Community.

Temporary suspension of the CCT

The Department of Trade is considering applications for new suspensions of the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) on the materials listed below, on the grounds that these materials are not available from within the European Economic Community. The applications, which relate to the period 1 January to 30 June 1978 are for total suspension of the CCT in each instance.

If any UK companies are already manufacturing any of the goods listed (or like or competing goods) or expect shortly to be in production, so that their interests would be adversely affected by a suspension of the CCT, they should notify the Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 3576, quoting the appropriate reference number. The information should be with the department not later than 6 May.

Tariff heading: reference	Description
29.35Q: G/T 16045	*L*-Tryptophan
51.02 All: G/T 16157	Strip of polytetrafluoroethylene
56.01 All: G/T 16158	Synthetic textile fibres of polytetrafluorethylene

Tariff quotas 1977 – exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the following United Kingdom tariff quota for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual EFTA countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry* of 12 December 1975) have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no. (part 11 of the UK tariff)
48.01 E 48.05 B	Portugal	2508
ex 48.01 E(b) 48.07 B(c)1	Switzerland Finland	2109 2605

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): Restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 25 February and 18 March gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 4 March. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 1 April is as follows:

1 TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading/ Description of goods	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir or where applicable UK maximum cumulative amount (m.a.) reached: duty to be re-imposed
ex 31.05 (S/C) Other fertilisers, etc (1456)		18.3.77 Yugoslavia
ex 41.02 B Bovine cattle leather (including buffalo leather) and equine leather, etc. Other, but not including leather not further prepared than tanned (1545)	20.1.77	15.3.77 Argentina
42.02 B Travel goods, etc. – Of other materials (1596)		18.3.77 South Korea
42.04,A BII and III and C Articles of apparel; gloves, including mittens and mitts: special, for sports and other; other clothing accessories (1618)	29.3.77	18.3.77 South Korea
55.05 BII Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: Other, other: Measuring per single yarn, per kg: – more than 40,000m but not more than 80,000m (6232)	18.3.77	12.3.77 Colombia
ex 55.09 AII Other woven fabrics: – Containing 85 per cent or more by weight of cotton: – Other, other (3724)	5.1.77	12.3.77 Colombia 15.3.77 Mexico
56.07 B Woven fabrics of mmf (discontinuous or waste: – Of regenerated textile fibres (6372)		22.3.77 South Korea
60.02 Gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised (6658)	17.3.77	
ex 60.03 Stockings, understockings, etc – Of synthetic textile fibres (6666)		16.3.77 South Korea m.a.
60.05 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised (6712)	11.3.77	
64.02 A Footwear with outer soles of leather, etc – Footwear with uppers of leather (4231)	21.3.77	25.3.77 Brazil
85.21 D and E Diodes, transistors and similar semiconductor devices; electronic microcircuits; Parts (4924)	29.3.77	
92.11 A (S/C) Sound recorders and reproducers (5032)		12.3.77 South Korea
97.05 (S/C) Carnival articles, etc (5202)		12.3.77 Hong Kong

(S/C) denotes Special Ceiling.
The Customs' quota reference (see HM Customs Tariff Part 11) is given in brackets after the description of goods.

11 CEILINGS

Tariff heading/Description of goods	Date of restoration of duties: From all sources	Date of restoration of duties: From particular sources (inner ceilings)
ex 28.42ø Carbonates of sodium, anhydrous		6.2.77 Romania
41.04 BII Goat and kid skin leather, except leather falling within headings 41.06, 41.07 or 41.08: – Other, other	22.3.77	
55.06 Cotton yarn, put up for retail sale		28.3.77 Yugoslavia
62.04 Tarpaulins, sails, awnings, sunblinds, tents and camping goods		18.3.77 South Korea
66.01 Umbrellas, etc		28.3.77 Hong Kong
68.13 BI Fabricated asbestos, etc. Articles of asbestos – Thread		18.3.77 Yugoslavia
82.14 A Spoons, forks, fish-eaters, etc – Of stainless steel		28.3.77 Hong Kong

ø This item has already been included in a monthly round-up, but as a result of a mistranslation from the French to the English regulation, it has been established that the description should be 'anhydrous' and not 'anhydrite'.

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

Technology
Geos satellite launch imminent 112

Overseas trade news
Japan should buy more UK goods – Dell 113
NTI 1610: import arrangements for cotton yarn 114

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Irish hardware fair 119

Country data
Belgium 123
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Statistics
UK exports invoiced in foreign currencies 129
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Registrations of British, community and foreign films 139

Health council proposed

Proposals for a meeting of EEC health ministers have been put forward by Britain and France.

The suggestion follows a recent visit to the UK by Simone Veil, French Minister of Health, at the invitation of David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services (see *Trade and Industry*, 8 April, page 19). The two ministers discussed the question of a council of health ministers as well as matters of mutual interest in their two countries.

Roy Hattersley visits Paris

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, visited Paris on 14-15 April, for an exchange of views on prices, prices policy and on competition policy with his opposite numbers in the French government and with French employer and union representatives.

Mr Hattersley arrived in Paris on 14 April and had discussions with Christiane Scrivener, minister responsible for consumer affairs, and Robert Boulin, delegated Minister of Economy and Finance. The following day he met Claude Vilain, Director General of Competition and Prices at the Ministry of Finance. Mr Hattersley's two-day programme also included talks with representatives of the employers' federation and of the Conseil National de Commerce; with the union confederation, Force Ouvriere; and with the National Confederation of Small and Medium Size Firms.

This was the first official visit to France by the Secretary of State. In June 1976 Mme Scrivener visited the UK for talks with Shirley Williams, then Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1976	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,218	10,396	1,829	1,977	£ million		
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,087	280	807
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	131	−702	833
1973	110	36,003	10,279	1,872	2,390	1,127	404	102	382	−752	−2,334	1,582
1974	110	35,590	10,124	2,024	2,289	602	666	81	−111	−3,380	−5,221	1,841
1975	108	35,234	9,991	1,737	1,970	−680	−392	−111	−23	−1,635	−3,195	1,560
1976	109	35,290	9,562	1,651	1,898	−8	−4	22	1	−1,423	−3,592	2,169
1975 1st qtr.	109	8,988	2,534	471	492	−125	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	107	8,833	2,474	444	498	−267	−105	−54	−66	−295	−655	360
3rd qtr.	107	8,724	2,540	416	501	−208	−234	−29	38	−566	−967	401
4th qtr.	107	8,689	2,443	406	480	−80	−70	4	43	−230	−626	396
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,811	2,460	402	452	25	31	24	12	−80	−538	458
2nd qtr.	108	8,730	2,394	408	479	−97	−115	−22	−55	−439	−919	480
3rd qtr.	108	8,824	2,392	418	484	−22	4	10	22	−536	−1,148	612
4th qtr.	110	8,925	2,316	422	483	86	77	10	22	−368	−987	619
1977 1st qtr.										−293	−953	660
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+0.3	+1.2	−3.0	+3.7	+3.9							
on a year earlier	+2.0	+1.9	−5.5	+2.2	−1.4							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students mid-month count	% of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	107.1	116.7
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	122.2	133.8
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.7ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	131.2	136.2
1975	101.3	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	150.0ø	125.6	126.4
1976	102.2	103.4	108.1	104.7	157.1	16.5	299.0	219.6	214.5	1,269.8ø	5.4ø	120.4ø	135.9	134.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.9	101.8	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,220.3	5.2	116.7	131.5	126.1
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.6	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,252.1	5.3	119.4	137.1	134.6
3rd qtr.	101.5	103.4	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,305.5	5.5	123.6	134.2	137.9
4th qtr.	103.2	104.5	108.5	113	165.8	15.0	329.9	233.9	220.6	1,316.8ø	5.6ø	..	140.8	138.1
1977 1st qtr.			105.2 p	107 p	174.1 p		341.7 p	248.0 p		1,330.2 p	5.6 p		140.5 p	142.1 p
1976 Apr.	102.4	103.3	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,241.8	5.3	122.5	135.6	132.1
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,253.3	5.3	120.0	137.2	134.7
June	100.4	101.0	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,261.1	5.3	115.7	138.5	137.1
July	101.4	103.6	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,288.9	5.5	118.6	130.4	139.4
Aug.	100.6	102.4	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,308.8	5.6	126.2	134.9	133.7
Sept.	102.4	104.3	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.7	5.6	125.9	137.3	140.4
Oct.	103.0	105.0	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,307.9	5.5	124.5	140.8	140.6
Nov.	103.4	104.9	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	..	..	..	138.1	140.1
Dec.	103.2	103.7	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.2	237.2	221.5	1,325.7 e	5.6 e	..	143.3	133.6
1977 Jan.	104.3	105.1	106.7	93	172.4	16.6	337.9	244.9	223.8	1,338.2	5.7	..	140.6	153.6
Feb.	104.0 p	105.2 p	105.7	118	174.1	16.2	339.7 p	248.2 p	223.9 p	1,331.4	5.6	150.5	138.0	133.8
Mar.			103½ p	109 p	175.8	16.7	347.4 p	250.8 p		1,321.1 p	5.6 p	157.3 p	142.8 p	139.0 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+0.9	−0.1	−3.0	−5.6	+5.0		+3.6	+6.0	+1.5	+1.0			—	+3
a year earlier	+2.7	+3.6	−1.9	+3.9	+16.5		+28.2	+19.8	+10.3	+9.0			+7	+13

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of available months e estimate

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

UK exports invoiced in foreign currencies: rising trend in 1976

A sample of commercial invoices relating to United Kingdom export shipments in October-November 1976 has been examined to provide information on the extent of invoicing in foreign currencies. It is the second survey of its kind: the first related to shipments in April 1976 (see *Trade and Industry*, 7 January 1977).

The latest survey reveals the proportion of exports, in terms of value, invoiced in foreign currency had risen to 27 per cent compared with a figure of 20 per cent some six months earlier. The proportion invoiced in the importing countries' own currency and that in US dollars at 15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively, both increased from the April 1976 level; again, as in the earlier survey, there were very few examples of invoicing in foreign currencies other than US dollars or those of the importing country's own currency.

Table 1 gives the subdivision of the overall results in terms of export markets. This detail may have to be interpreted with caution in some instances owing to the limited size of the sample (of some 5,400 invoices). It does, however, broadly confirm many of the features of the earlier survey including the importance of invoicing in western European currencies to markets in western Europe and the widespread use of the US dollar as an invoicing currency. However the results of the later survey are considerably at variance with those of the earlier survey in the case of Japan and the centrally planned economies and it seems clear that the sample results may not be very reliable indicators of the invoicing pattern for these two markets.

Table 2 gives details in terms of the main commodity groupings of exports. These results again broadly confirm the earlier estimates with all the groupings, except one, showing some increase in the extent of foreign currency invoicing in line with the overall increase since April 1976. As mentioned in the 7 January article, it may be that these results are in part a reflection of the market pattern of exports rather than of significance in their own right.

It should be stressed that the results from these surveys can indicate only the likely lower limits of the proportions of exports for which foreign currency would be received since shipments invoiced in sterling from the United Kingdom could be re-invoiced locally by a subsidiary company or agent to the final purchaser.

Inquiries: 01-215 5706.

TABLE 2 UK exports: invoicing currency analysis by commodity group

Percentages by value

Shipments in October-November 1976 (shipments for April 1976 in parentheses)

	Foreign currency invoicing proportion
Food, beverages and tobacco	33 (27)
Fuels and basic materials	35 (22)
Chemicals	35 (25)
Textiles	34 (31)
Metals and articles of metal	41 (31)
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	24 (9)
Other machinery	12 (18)
Transport equipment	10 (5)
Other manufactured goods	28 (21)
TOTAL	27 (20)

TABLE 1 UK exports: invoicing currency analysis by area

Shipments in October-November 1976 (shipments for April 1976 in parentheses)

Percentages by value

	EEC	Other western Europe countries	Oil exporting countries	North America	Latin America	Centrally planned economies	Japan	Other developed countries	Rest of world	Total all countries
Invoiced in own currency	21	11	2		—	—	19	5	1	15*
	(15)	(8)	(—)	49	(—)	(—)	(—)	(2)		(12)
Invoiced in US dollars	10	6	11	(30)	49	0	8	8	31	12
	(5)	(7)	(9)		(45)	(24)	(30)	(11)		(8)
Invoiced in other foreign currency	0	2	—	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
	(1)	(1)	(0)	(—)	(1)	(0)	—	(2)		(1)
Invoiced in sterling	69	81	87	51	51	100	73	87	68	73
	(79)	(84)	(91)	(70)	(54)	(76)	(70)	(85)		(80)

— means no trade. 0 means trade of less than 0.5 per cent of area total * includes exports to the USA invoiced in US dollars.

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- PQ 446 Hats, caps and millinery for fourth quarter 1976
- PQ 449.1 Corsets and miscellaneous dress industries for fourth quarter 1976
- PQ 449.2 Gloves for fourth quarter 1976
- PQ 450 Footwear for fourth quarter 1976
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Index of retail prices for March

The index of retail prices for all items for 15 March 1977 was 175.8 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.0 per cent on February 1977 (174.1) and of 16.7 per cent on March 1976 (150.6).

The rise in the index in March was due largely to increases in the prices of alcoholic drink and many items of food, clothing and footwear and household and other goods.

TABLE 1 Index of retail prices

	All items			All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1976						
October	163.5	+1.8	+14.7	162.8	+1.8	+7.0
November	165.8	+1.4	+15.0	164.8	+1.2	+6.9
December	168 0	+1.3	+15.1	166.8	+1.2	+7.3
1977						
January	172.4	+2.6	+16.6	170.9	+2.5	+9.0
February	174.1	+1.0	+16.2	172.5	+0.9	+8.8
March	175.8	+1.0	+16.7	174.3	+1.0	+8.9

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in table 2.

TABLE 2 Index of retail prices: commodity breakdown

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	15 Feb 1977	15 Mar 1977	
All items	174.1	175.8	+1.0
All items excluding food	171.1	172.6	+0.9
Food	184.5	186.5	+1.1
Seasonal food	216.8	215.7	−0.5
Other food	178.5	181.0	+1.4
Alcoholic drink	176.4	179.3	+1.6
Tobacco	194.3	193.7	−0.3
Housing	154.6	155.7	+0.7
Fuel and light	198.0	198.7	+0.4
Durable household goods	160.1	162.0	+1.2
Clothing and footwear	151.1	153.4	+1.5
Transport and vehicles	181.3	182.4	+0.6
Miscellaneous goods	178.5	180.9	+1.3
Services	167.7	168.1	+0.2
Meals out	173.8	176.5	+1.6

Index of industrial production for February

The provisional estimate for the total all-industries' index in February 1977 is 104.0 and that for manufacturing alone is 105.2 (1970 = 100).

The level of industrial output rose slightly in recent months.

It is provisionally estimated that, before any adjustment to allow for the use of delivery indicators (see below), the average level of the all-industries' index in December 1976 to February 1977 was nearly 1 per cent above its level in the preceding three months; over the same period the average level of the index for manufacturing industries was unchanged. The analysis by broad market sectors shows that, over the same period, the output of the intermediate goods industries rose by 2 per cent, reflecting an increase in the output of fuels, whilst there was little change in the output of the consumer goods and investment goods industries.

On a longer term comparison, the all-industries' index in the latest three months was about 2½ per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; the corresponding rise for manufacturing industries was 3½ per cent.

The use of series for some industries which measure deliveries rather than production resulted in the all-industries' index understating the level of output in the first quarter of 1976 by about ¼ per cent, overstating it by about ¾ per cent in the second and third quarters, and understating it again by about ¼ per cent in the fourth quarter.

The index numbers are all seasonally adjusted. The seasonal adjustment process is designed to remove annually recurring month-to-month variations due, for example, to the incidence of holidays. The adjustments, however, can in general only be derived from analysis of past experience, and may not therefore be completely appropriate when holiday patterns change sharply. The introduction of a public holiday on New Year's Day seems to have led to more shutdowns of industrial plant in the last week of December and early in January. Similarly, there is some unquantifiable evidence to suggest that some industrial establishments took holidays at the beginning of June 1976, immediately following the Spring Bank Holiday on 31 May – in recent years most of such holidays would have fallen in May. The seasonal adjustment process may not yet have fully reflected these changing holiday patterns.

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries													
				Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries							
					Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	850	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.5	100.1	100.0	99.7	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.3	102.1	99.4	100.2	100.8	101.7	96.6	100.2	93.6
1972	102.7	102.4	84.1	102.4	104.9	104.0	106.4	102.5	108.1	100.1	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	104.2	95.7
1973	110.3	110.8	92.6	111.0	109.3	106.3	114.2	110.0	120.9	108.8	103.4	101.7	125.2	95.1	107.1	103.2
1974	106.4	107.9	78.8	108.2	109.9	104.5	118.8	106.0	127.9	106.7	103.4	104.9	120.6	98.9	102.5	103.9
1975	101.3	102.6	86.0	101.7	108.6	101.1	121.1	92.0	116.3	101.8	102.0	101.1	113.1	97.6	96.7	95.1
1976	102.2	104.5	89.5	103.3	110.4	102.8	122.7	96.3	128.0	99.6	98.0	101.9	111.5	90.7	96.8	92.8
1975 3rd qtr	99.7	100.6	84.4	99.7	108.3	99.3	123.0	92.3	112.6	100.4	100.2	99.4	111.7	100.8	95.9	91.6
4th qtr	100.4	101.8	86.8	100.4	110.8	104.7	120.7	88.2	120.0	98.6	99.9	95.4	107.3	99.0	94.8	90.5
1976 1st qtr	101.9	103.3	87.6	101.8	106.2	100.7	115.4	94.5	124.2	98.7	99.1	97.8	108.1	87.6	96.3	92.5
2nd qtr	102.4	104.5	88.8	103.6	112.6	105.2	124.9	96.5	126.9	100.1	99.7	103.9	111.4	88.5	97.2	92.7
3rd qtr	101.5	104.0	86.4	103.4	112.6	103.7	127.1	96.2	128.5	99.6	97.1	101.3	112.6	93.3	97.1	91.7
4th qtr	103.2	106.2	95.3	104.5	110.0	101.9	123.4	98.0	132.4	100.0	96.1	104.7	114.2	93.2	96.7	94.1
1975 Nov	100.9	102.3	87	101.1	113	104	126	85	119	99	100	95	107	94	97	92
Dec	99.8	101.0	86	99.5	111	106	118	87	122	98	100	95	107	100	94	89
1976 Jan	101.1	102.4	90	101.5	103	98	109	91	121	98	99	96	107	85	94	95
Feb	102.6	104.1	87	102.1	107	101	118	94	124	99	99	98	108	88	98	91
Mar	102.0	103.4	86	101.8	109	103	119	98	127	99	100	100	109	90	96	91
Apr	102.4	104.4	89	103.3	113	105	124	99	126	100	100	103	111	91	96	92
May	104.5	106.9	89	106.4	113	107	123	92	126	102	100	104	111	84	103	99
Jun	100.4	102.1	88	101.0	112	103	127	98	129	98	99	105	112	91	92	87
Jul	101.4	103.9	85	103.6	112	104	126	95	126	101	97	101	112	89	106	89
Aug	100.6	103.0	87	102.4	111	103	125	91	127	99	98	101	113	96	90	94
Sept	102.4	105.1	88	104.3	114	104	130	103	133	99	96	101	113	95	95	92
Oct	103.0	105.9	93	105.0	111	104	122	101	129	100	96	104	114	86	98	97
Nov	103.4	106.5	96	104.9	111	103	123	98	136	100	96	105	114	97	99	92
Dec	103.2	106.2	98	103.7	109	99	125	94	132	99	96	106	115	97	93	93
1977 Jan	104.3	107.2	100	105.1	107	104	113	91	126	101	96	107	115	82	101	96
Feb	104.0	106.8	102	105.2	112	104	123	104	133	100	96	107	115	93	93	98
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+0.9	+0.8	+8.6	−0.1	−2.4	−1.3	−4.0	−4.5	−1.7	+0.2	0.0	+3.2	+1.0	−2.3	−1.8	+2.5
on a year earlier	+2.7	+4.1	+13.9	+3.6	+2.1	+0.4	+4.7	+6.3	+6.5	+1.9	−2.9	+10.8	+7.1	−0.5	+0.1	+4.6

	Manufacturing industries (continued)												Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc						
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.2	100.6	103.0	105.4	108.1	107.0	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.8	103.0	103'9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.5	102.9	104.5	107.8	115.2	115.1	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.3	104.4	111.4
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.1	114.6	126.0	123.7	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.6	107.5	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.1	99.2	94.9	112.2	116.6	108.3	129.5	112.1	108.8	114.5	98.2	118.6
1975	78.6	74.2	92.2	99.5	93.8	92.9	112.2	107.7	99.7	120.3	110.5	95.5	105.5	93.5	120.6
1976	85.2	82.0	95.2	101.4	97.0	97.2	111.0	110.8	102.2	124.1	112.7	97.8	114.4	89.2	123.9
1975 3rd qtr	72.1	66.6	89.2	98.7	92.8	93.4	111.7	105.2	97.1	117.9	108.9	92.6	104.5	94.4	117.1
4th qtr	75.5	70.8	90.2	99.5	94.6	98.2	110.0	107.6	99.0	120.9	111.3	93.6	105.2	92.5	123.6
1976 1st qtr	83.2	79.7	94.1	102.5	98.4	98.6	111.5	111.1	104.6	121.2	111.2	95.7	111.4	93.3	127.3
2nd qtr	87.8	84.9	96.9	99.5	95.2	92.9	109.3	108.6	101.0	120.5	110.8	97.9	112.9	90.7	121.4
3rd qtr	84.6	81.5	94.3	100.9	96.5	95.2	110.9	112.5	101.7	129.5	112.4	97.4	112.3	86.7	118.5
4th qtr	85.3	82.0	95.4	102.6	97.9	102.1	112.2	110.8	101.6	125.3	116.4	100.0	121.0	86.1	128.4
1975 Nov	78	74	89	101	97	98	109	107	98	120	112	93	109		123
Dec	68	61	89	98	93	98	110	108	99	122	110	93	104		125
1976 Jan	88	86	95	107	104	99	116	107	102	115	113	95	108		118
Feb	82	78	94	102	99	99	111	113	105	125	112	97	113		134
Mar	80	75	93	98	93	99	107	114	107	124	109	95	113		129
Apr	85	81	96	99	96	93	107	109	102	119	111	99	113		123
May	102	101	108	104	99	93	116	109	101	122	117	99	115		121
Jun	76	73	87	95	91	93	105	108	100	120	105	96	111		120
Jul	86	82	97	100	96	95	108	113	100	133	112	99	107		117
Aug	86	84	91	100	96	95	110	110	101	126	112	97	108		117
Sept	82	78	94	103	98	95	114	114	104	130	113	97	122		122
Oct	90	86	101	103	98	102	112	109	101	121	122	102	119		122
Nov	85	84	89	101	97	102	109	112	101	128	115	98	124		128
Dec	81	76	96	104	98	102	116	112	102	126	112	100	120		136
1977 Jan	92	89	101	108	103	101	120	110	95	133	113	101	122		132
Feb	84	80	97	107	100	101	120	109	98	126	112	101	123		125
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−0.1	−1.4	+3.5	+3.9	+2.6	+1.6	+6.4	−1.5	−3.7	+1.2	−3.5	+1.9	−0.3		+5.8
on a year earlier	+7.8	+8.6	+5.9	+3.3	+2.0	+3.0	+5.6	+0.6	−3.8	+6.4	+0.8	+6.2	+11.8		+4.2

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Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for March

In March 1977 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £12 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £232 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £220 million.

In the first quarter of 1977 there was a current account deficit of £293 million compared with £368 million in the previous quarter. Because of difficulties in seasonally adjusting imports in December and January, the improvement in the visible, and hence the current, balance between the quarters is likely to be understated. (See note 10).

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance (c)	Visible balance: Trade in goods (c)	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,635	−3,195	+1,560
1976	−1,423	−3,592	+2,169
1975 1st quarter	−544	−947	+403
2nd quarter	−295	−655	+360
3rd quarter	−566	−967	+401
4th quarter	−230	−626	+396
1976 1st quarter	−80	−538	+458
2nd quarter	−439	−919	+480
3rd quarter	−536	−1,148	+612
4th quarter	−368	−987	+619
1977 1st quarter	−293	−953	+660 a
1976 October	−112	−318	+206 b
November	−249	−455	+206 b
December	−7	−214	+207 b
1977 January	−312	−532	+220 a
February	+31	−189	+220 a
March	−12	−232	+220 a

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.
b One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.
c See note 10.

Visible trade

Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (See tables 1 and 3 and note 10)

In March, there was again a comparatively small deficit on visible trade of £232 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,498 million and the value of imports £2,730 million. The March deficit was £43 million more than the low February figure and resulted from a rise of £109 million in imports compared with an increase of £66 million in exports. Both increases owed much to some of the more erratic elements of trade.

In terms of volume, exports rose by 3½ per cent in March, while imports were up by 4 per cent from the low February level. The export unit value index rose by 1 per cent in March while the import unit value index was up by 1½ per cent, in both cases continuing the smaller changes evident in recent months since the exchange rate became more stable. The terms of trade index fell marginally.

In the first quarter of 1977 the figures show a visible trade deficit of £953 million compared with £987 million in the fourth quarter of 1976. Because of difficulties in seasonally adjusting imports in December and January, the improvement in the visible balance between the quarters is likely to be understated. Between the two quarterly periods there was a substantial improvement of £190 million in the balance of trade in oil. Total exports were valued at £7,402 million, a rise of 4½ per cent on the previous quarter, while in volume terms they were little changed. Total imports, at £8,355 million, show an increase of 3½ per cent in value and 3 per cent in volume (but most of these rises reflect the distortions referred to above). The terms of trade index increased by 2 per cent between the quarters, the result of a 5 per cent rise in the export unit value index and a 3 per cent rise in the import unit value index.

Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). In the first quarter of 1977 the value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 5½ per cent higher than in the previous quarter. Shipments to the EEC and the rest of western Europe rose by 5 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, while the value of goods despatched to North America increased by 6 per cent. Exports to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) increased by 12 per cent over this period. Exports to the developing countries as a whole increased by 4 per cent, with the value of shipments to the oil exporting countries 10 per cent higher. The value of goods despatched to the centrally planned economies rose by 9½ per cent.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7)

The value of exports of manufactured goods was 4½ per cent higher in the first quarter of 1977 than in the final quarter of last year. This increase entirely reflected higher export prices; there was no change in the volume of deliveries. Within manufactured goods, the value of exports of machinery and transport equipment rose by 1½ per cent in the first quarter but volume fell by 3½ per cent reflecting a 2 per cent fall in the volume of machinery shipments and a 6½ per cent fall in the volume of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment exported. The value of exports of road motor vehicles rose by 4 per cent but exports of other transport equipment, which often move erratically, fell by 13 per cent. The value of exports of chemicals rose by 4½ per cent over this period, but volume fell by 2 per cent. Most of the 7½ per cent rise in the value of textiles exported reflected higher export prices, while the increase of 9½ per cent in other manufactures reflected broadly equal rises in volume and price. The value of exports of non-manufactured goods in total rose by 12 per cent. Shipments of food, beverages and tobacco and of basic materials increased in value by 7 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. Most of the rise of 21 per cent in the value of fuel exports reflected increased exports of crude oil, which rose to £162 million in the quarter, compared with £90 million in the last quarter of 1976.

Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis) (see note 10)

The detailed quarterly comparisons for imports given below are affected by the distortions referred to earlier.

Commodity analysis (see table 8, 10 and 11). In the first quarter of 1977, the value of imports of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 6 per cent compared with the previous quarter, with higher prices contributing the larger part of the increase. Between the same periods, the value

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)†	Visible balance†
1975	19,379	22,574	−3,195
1976	25,294	28,886	−3,592
1975 1st quarter	4,644	5,591	−947
2nd quarter	4,611	5,266	−655
3rd quarter	4,808	5,775	−967
4th quarter	5,316	5,942	−626
1976 1st quarter	5,611	6,149	−538
2nd quarter	6,209	7,128	−919
3rd quarter	6,400	7,548	−1,148
4th quarter	7,074	8,061	−987
1977 1st quarter p	7,402	8,355	−953
1976 October	2,306	2,624	−318
November	2,320	2,775	−455
December	2,448	2,662	−214
1977 January	2,472	3,004	−532
February	2,432	2,621	−189
March p	2,498	2,730	−232
Percentage change* 1st quarter on previous quarter	+4½	+3½	

p Provisional estimates. † See note 10.
* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

TABLE 2 Invisibles¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1975	11,090	9,530	+1,560
1976	13,597	11,428	+2,169
1975 1st quarter	2,658	2,255	+403
2nd quarter	2,733	2,373	+360
3rd quarter	2,786	2,385	+401
4th quarter	2,913	2,517	+396
1976 1st quarter	3,057	2,599	+458
2nd quarter	3,247	2,767	+480
3rd quarter	3,551	2,939	+612
4th quarter	3,742	3,123	+619
1977 January			+220*
February			+220*
March			+220*

¶ See note 6.
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade †	Exports	Imports*
1975	198.5	245.0	81.0	125.6	126.4
1976	240.6	299.4	80.4	135.9	134.2
1975 1st quarter	184.9	239.8	77.1	128.8	127.9
2nd quarter	193.4	240.4	80.4	122.6	122.0
3rd quarter	202.2	246.4	82.1	121.3	128.3
4th quarter	210.1	259.7	80.9	129.6	127.4
1976 1st quarter	219.0	268.3	81.6	131.5	126.1
2nd quarter	234.2	291.7	80.3	137.1	134.6
3rd quarter	247.4	307.3	80.5	134.2	137.9
4th quarter	261.7	330.0	79.3	140.8	138.1
1977 1st quarter p	274.5	339.4	80.9	140.5	142.1
1976 October	256.4	322.0	79.6	140.8	140.6
November	261.8	332.7	78.7	138.1	140.1
December	266.9	335.4	79.6	143.3	133.6
1977 January	272.7	335.1	81.4	140.6	153.6
February r	273.9	338.9	80.8	138.0	133.8
March p	276.8	344.1	80.4	142.8	139.0
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	+5	+3	+2	—	+3

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the import unit value index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.
* See Note 10.

of fuel imports, in contrast, fell by 8 per cent, the result of a lower volume of arrivals, particularly of crude oil. Imports of industrial materials in total increased by 4½ per cent in value with higher prices contributing slightly more than higher volumes. Within the group price rises were also the more important factors in the increases in the value of imports of basic materials and of other semi-manufactures of 6½ per cent and 1 per cent respectively. The 11 per cent rise in the value of chemical imports, on the other hand, was largely the result of an 8 per cent increase in volume. A higher volume of arrivals accounted for the 5 per cent rise in the value of imports of finished manufactures in aggregate. Within the group there were sharply contrasting movements however. The value of imports of machinery was little changed, while imports of road motor vehicles and of other transport equipment, which often move erratically, rose by 14 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively. For the last two groups combined imports were 15 per cent higher in volume terms. The 8 per cent rise in the value of imports of other finished manufactures was due entirely to higher volume.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries rose by 3 per cent in the first quarter of 1977 compared with the previous quarter. Imports from the EEC increased by 3 per cent while those from the rest of western Europe were little changed. Arrivals from North America and from the other developed countries rose by 6½ per cent and 2½ per cent, respectively. Among the other developing countries, there was a 9 per cent fall in shipments from the oil exporting countries, while deliveries from the other developing countries increased by 16 per cent reflecting, in part, increases in the value of imports of coffee, tea and cocoa. Imports from the centrally planned economies also rose by 16 per cent.

Invisibles (see table 2)
The latest estimate of invisibles relates to the fourth quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,742 million and debits £3,123 million, giving a surplus of £619 million for the quarter. The surplus is projected to be running currently at £220 million a month.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) and to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair), where no change of ownership is involved. In addition adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of variations in the quality of recording as revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1965-75* (table 4 and pages 59-62) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	25,778	9,174	4,275	3,098	1,943	3,143	3,362	727
1976 2nd quarter	6,310	2,246	1,053	773	472	751	807	183
3rd quarter	6,500	2,342	1,061	797	490	786	837	182
4th quarter	7,228	2,628	1,247	837	481	911	909	187
1977 1st quarter p	7,572	2,764	1,297	887	537	1,000	890	204
1977 January	2,534	925	483	275	189	316	294	66
February	2,507	895	432	282	179	337	297	69
March p	2,532	944	382	330	169	347	298	69
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	+5	+5	+4	+6	+12	+10	−2	+9½

¶ See Note 2. p Provisional estimates.

exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

2 The adjustments described at note 1 are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analysis of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analysis of the area and other commodity patterns of trade are based on the figures on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the total balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take the sum of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly total gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

6 Invisibles (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons; the data are not available on a

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1976	25,778	1,694	778	1,255	21,347	10,126	7,062	2,224	840	3,047	2,347	934	4,892	707
1976 2nd quarter	6,310	406	182	286	5,229	2,514	1,741	553	203	733	575	223	1,228	170
3rd quarter	6,500	419	197	333	5,414	2,530	1,753	561	200	783	635	240	1,204	178
4th quarter	7,228	472	232	395	5,913	2,735	1,910	601	246	860	653	267	1,397	183
1977 1st quarter p	7,572	505	252	479	6,180	2,773	1,951	623	213	900	684	288	1,527	193
1977 January	2,534	174	84	152	2,053	915	669	189	66	295	228	97	536	61
February	2,507	170	90	161	2,027	903	632	210	53	295	224	95	505	63
March p	2,532	160	78	166	2,100	956	650	225	94	310	233	96	485	69
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	+5	+7	+8	+21	+4½	+1½	+2	+4	−13	+4½	+4½	+7½	+9½	+5½

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See Note 2. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1976	139.4	156	122	108	140	133	135	130	171	108	124	168
1976 2nd quarter	140.3	151	119	104	141	135	135	130	167	110	122	173
3rd quarter	137.3	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	171	114	126	161
4th quarter	144.6	161	131	121	144	134	134	136	180	111	130	176
1977 1st quarter p	144.5	165	138	134	144	129	131	127	176	118	132	184
1977 January	144.9	167	138	133	144	128	136	115	174	120	135	194
February	143.1	170	149	133	141	126	127	119	175	113	131	181
March p	145.6	158	126	137	147	134	131	148	180	122	130	177
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	–	+2½	+5	+11	–	−3½	−2	−6½	−2	+6½	+2	+4½

p Provisional estimates.

monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

7 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

8 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1976	240.1	213	240	553	234	245	250	234	238	228	202	221
1976 2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
4th quarter	261.7	229	262	608	256	269	273	260	259	247	222	239
1977 1st quarter p	274.4	238	276	643	268	284	288	275	272	255	235	249
1977 January	272.6	235	272	625	267	283	286	279	269	253	230	248
February	273.8	237	274	645	268	282	287	271	271	256	236	249
March p	276.7	242	282	658	270	285	290	276	276	257	238	249
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	+5	+3½	+5½	+6	+5	+5½	+5½	+6	+5	+3	+5½	+4

p Provisional estimates

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶† Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment**					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery**	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1976	31,213	4,993	5,652	11,296	3,223	2,000	6,073	8,860	6,389	4,637	1,398	354	2,471	412
1976 2nd quarter	7,678	1,250	1,346	2,735	760	486	1,489	2,151	1,572	1,180	325	99	579	117
3rd quarter	8,110	1,266	1,493	2,904	856	515	1,532	2,344	1,716	1,255	392	64	628	107
4th quarter	8,744	1,406	1,511	3,239	929	568	1,743	2,543	1,831	1,293	416	96	713	92
1977 1st quarter p	8,964	1,491	1,394	3,379	989	630	1,760	2,668	1,897	1,289	475	124	771	105
1976 December	2,907	439	501	1,071	306	189	576	858	619	442	139	26	239	31
1977 January	3,230	502	554	1,248	364	224	661	933	651	434	156	40	282	37
February	2,856	477	391	1,106	319	205	581	859	612	418	152	38	247	32
March p	2,878	512	448	1,025	306	200	519	876	634	436	167	46	241	36
Percentage change 1st qtr on previous qtr	+2½	+6	−8	+4½	+6½	+11	+1	+5	+3½	−½	+14	+30	+8	+15

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. p Provisional estimates. ** Includes North Sea production installations. † See Note 10.

include North Sea oil production installations, however, no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

9 Definition of areas. The areas used in tables 4 and 9 comprise the following countries:
EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).
North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.
Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.
Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and Vietnam.
Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria,

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶† Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1976	31,213	11,396	4,584	4,219	2,124	4,210	3,514	1,133
1976 2nd quarter	7,678	2,887	1,083	1,023	498	964	869	301
3rd quarter	8,110	2,828	1,231	1,122	578	1,179	912	274
4th quarter	8,744	3,245	1,283	1,191	619	1,135	969	282
1977 1st quarter p	8,964	3,344	1,290	1,268	635	1,031	1,123	326
1976 December	2,907	1,110	452	374	208	381	310	96
1977 January	3,230	1,168	491	435	207	392	406	136
February	2,856	1,072	417	443	229	271	357	90
March p	2,878	1,105	383	391	199	368	360	99
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter	+2½	+3	+½	+6½	+2½	−9	+16	+16

¶ See note 2. p Provisional estimates. † See Note 10.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices*
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment†			Other
									Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1976	133.5	101	87	127	93	150	145	196	197	186	241	193
1976 2nd quarter	134.1	101	87	126	92	148	144	193	196	189	244	186
3rd quarter	135.8	103	88	127	95	153	142	202	206	194	251	193
4th quarter	137.8	104	85	132	94	157	151	206	210	196	247	197
1977 1st quarter p	139.6	107	76	135	97	170	152	213	213	194	283	215
1976 December	134.5	98	82	128	91	155	147	205	210	197	241	190
1977 January	151.5	110	95	152	108	183	173	229	225	204	278	238
February r	133.9	103	63	132	93	166	149	205	205	186	276	204
March p	133.5	109	71	122	90	161	134	206	208	191	296	202
Percentage change 1st qtr on previous qtr	+1½	+2½	−10	+2½	+3½	+8	+1	+3½	+1½	−1	+15	+9

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. † Includes Nortn Sea production installations.
* See Note 10.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment			Other
									Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
1976	288.6	247	704	239	260	267	217	237	232	227	253	249
1976 2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
4th quarter	318.9	268	768	268	295	296	240	265	258	251	287	284
1977 1st quarter p	327.6	279	790	277	310	302	248	264	258	248	297	280
1976 December	323.9	271	778	274	307	298	244	268	259	253	287	289
1977 January	323.8	275	776	274	307	303	244	263	257	247	298	278
February	327.2	279	789	277	311	299	248	263	257	249	290	278
March p	331.9	284	806	280	311	303	251	266	259	248	303	285
Percentage change 1st qtr on previous qtr	+2½	+4½	+3	+3½	+5	+1½	+3	−½	—	−1	+3½	−1½

p Provisional estimates.

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10 Seasonally adjusted import figures for December and January. Difficulties of allowing fully in the seasonal adjustment procedure for the effects of the 1976/77 Christmas/New Year holiday period have distorted the quarterly comparison of the imports value and volume statistics and hence of both the visible and current balance. The seasonally adjusted imports figures for December are probably understated and those for January correspondingly overstated. Exports are probably little affected.

Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for March with cumulative totals will be published on 29 April* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 14.1 to 14.19 in the *Monthly Digest* for April†, due to be published in the second week of May.

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to 01-215 3131 – Value data and 01-215 3466 – Indices.

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £6.50 (Annual Subscription £93.60).
† *Monthly Digest of Statistics* published by HMSO, price £1.95 (Annual Subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £27.86).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶
On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1975	−3,106	3,827	3,069	85.6	35.9	758	721	30	691
1976	−3,964	5,126	4,092	85.7	47.8	1,034	1,162	177	985
1975 1st quarter	−774	949	759	22.2	34.3	190	175	7	168
2nd quarter	−682	840	696	20.7	33.8	144	158	2	156
3rd quarter	−785	976	800	22.4	35.6	176	191	5	186
4th quarter	−865	1,062	814	20.3	40.2	248	197	16	181
1976 1st quarter	−960	1,179	929	21.5	43.4	250	219	18	201
2nd quarter	−957	1,219	956	20.6	46.5	263	262	25	237
3rd quarter	−1,043	1,355	1,080	21.8	49.6	275	312	44	268
4th quarter	−1,004	1,373	1,127	21.8	51.9	246	369	90	279
1977 1st quarter p	−814	1,265	1,010	18.9	53.4	255	451	162	289
1977 January	−357	501	389	7.4	52.3	112	144	43	101
February	−204	354	285	5.4	53.3	69	150	51	99
March p	−254	410	335	6.1	54.9	75	156	67	89
Percentage change 1st quarter on previous quarter		−8	−10	−13	+3	+3½	+22	+80	+3½

p Provisional estimates. ¶ See note 7.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports*				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1975	19,922	19,922	−543	19,379	24,128	24,128	−1,580	+26	22,574
1976	25,778	25,778	−484	25,294	31,213	31,213	−2,005	−322	28,886
1975 1st quarter	4,593	4,748	−104	4,644	5,883	5,950	−370	+11	5,591
2nd quarter	4,942	4,722	−111	4,611	5,832	5,573	−375	+68	5,266
3rd quarter	4,796	4,962	−154	4,808	5,998	6,190	−417	+2	5,775
4th quarter	5,591	5,490	−174	5,316	6,415	6,415	−418	−55	5,942
1976 1st quarter	5,818	5,740	−129	5,611	6,820	6,681	−435	−97	6,149
2nd quarter	6,393	6,310	−101	6,209	7,776	7,678	−502	−48	7,128
3rd quarter	6,260	6,500	−100	6,400	7,805	8,110	−525	−37	7,548
4th quarter	7,307	7,228	−154	7,074	8,812	8,744	−543	−140	8,061
1977 1st quarter p	7,686	7,572	−170	7,402	9,100	8,964	−573	−36	8,355
1976 October	2,297	2,359	−52	2,306	2,811	2,849	−178	−47	2,624
November	2,491	2,376	−57	2,320	3,109	2,988	−186	−27	2,775
December	2 519	2,493	−45	2,448	2,891	2,907	−178	−67	2,662
1977 January	2,345	2,534	−62	2,472	3,015	3,230	−209	−17	3,004
February	2,390	2,507	−74	2,432	2,743	2,856	−178	−57	2,621
March p	2,951	2,532	−34	2,498	3,342	2,878	−186	+38	2,730
Percentage change 1st qtr on previous qtr	+5	+5		+4½		+3½	+2½		+3½

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. * See note 10.

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Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

In the three months ended January 1977 deliveries were estimated to be 2 per cent higher on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, than in the three months ended October 1976. Net new orders were 7 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of January orders on hand were 12 per cent up on the October 1976 level. The index of output in the three months ended January 1977 was 3 per cent higher than in the three months ended October 1976.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor Production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (Minimum List Heading 450 of the Standard Industrial Classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers, classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Index of output: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	101	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	101	47.1	133.0	13.8		42.8	13.1		39.4	14.4
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1975 1st quarter	106	36.2	63.2	11.9	11.0	31.3	14.6	14.6	36.7	18.3
2nd quarter	95	41.2	82.4	14.0	13.4	36.8	12.3	13.1	30.4	23.1
3rd quarter	101	33.1	70.0	11.4	13.9	33.1	14.1	13.8	37.2	17.4
4th quarter	101	38.8	91.8	15.5	14.6	43.4	13.6	13.4	36.1	15.8
1976 1st quarter	101	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.1	38.9	13.3	12.9	39.8	19.0
2nd quarter	99	46.3	107.5	12.8	12.8	40.4	11.5	12.4	34.3	20.9
3rd quarter	100	36.9	89.7	10.0	12.0	34.7	13.2	12.8	40.7	17.2
4th quarter p	105	47.1	133.0	17.8	17.1	57.3	14.4	14.2	42.9	14.4
1975 January	109	39.2	71.7	9.6	9.3	29.0	14.7	14.8	36.8	
February	110	33.8	63.2	9.4	8.9	29.1	14.8	14.7	37.6	
March	99	36.2	63.2	16.6	14.7	35.7	14.1	14.2	35.7	
April	91	40.3	75.2	17.2	13.1	43.8	13.1	12.9	31.9	
May	89	44.0	88.0	14.8	13.6	40.0	11.1	12.5	27.2	
June	105	41.2	82.4	9.9	13.5	26.5	12.8	13.9	32.1	
July	104	34.0	68.8	6.7	10.7	24.3	13.8	13.6	37.9	
August	98	33.0	67.5	11.3	15.5	30.0	12.3	13.6	31.3	
September	103	33.1	70.0	16.3	15.5	44.9	16.2	14.1	42.4	
October	102	38.5	87.2	21.8	16.2	59.9	16.4	13.6	42.8	
November	100	38.8	92.8	13.8	12.4	40.5	13.5	13.3	34.9	
December	102	38.8	91.8	10.9	15.4	29.7	11.0	13.2	30.6	
1976 January	105	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.4	33.9	13.1	13.8	37.6	
February	104	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.2	40.3	12.9	12.8	39.2	
March	94	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.1	42.6	
April	95	43.2	94.4	12.2	9.7	39.7	11.6	12.0	34.5	
May	103	48.0	108.4	15.9	15.4	47.0	11.1	13.1	33.0	
June	100	46.3	107.5	10.2	13.4	34.4	11.8	12.2	35.3	
July	94	40.8	90.7	6.3	10.3	20.2	11.8	12.2	37.0	
August	97	38.1	87.9	8.8	11.4	33.7	11.4	12.0	36.6	
September	105	36.9	89.7	15.1	14.2	50.3	16.2	14.1	48.5	
October p	103	45.2	111.8	24.0	19.3	67.8	15.7	14.3	45.8	
November p	101	46.2	126.1	15.7	12.7	59.2	14.7	13.1	44.9	
December p	111	47.1	133.0	13.6	19.2	45.1	12.7	15.2	38.2	
1977 January p	101	50.6	130.9	15.0	16.0	38.7	11.6	12.8*	40.9	

p = Provisional.

* Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in February are estimated to be 13½ million pairs.

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Sales in the carpet industry in January

The daily rate of carpet manufacturers' sales by value in January 1977 at current prices was provisionally estimated to have been 20 per cent more than in January 1976 assuming 20 working days in January 1977 and 21 working days in January 1976. In the three months ended January 1977 the daily rate of manufacturers' sales was provisionally estimated to have been 15 per cent more than in the corresponding period 12 months ago, assuming 63 working days in the period ended January 1977 and 62 working days in the period ended January 1976. The index numbers which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of the working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The wholesale price index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

1970 = 100

		Index of manufacturers' sales at current prices	Wholesale price index
1969		93	96.6
1970		100	100.0
1971		115	104.9
1972		135	111.7
1973		166	130.2
1974		179	153.1
1975		202	177.8
1976		234	211.3
1975	Quarter ended December	242	190.5
1976	Quarter ended March	220	200.2
	Quarter ended June	224	206.6
	Quarter ended September	210	214.5
	Quarter ended December	283	224.0
1975	October	232	189.0
	November	279	190.2
	December	218	192.4
1976	January	204	197.7
	October	287	221.3
	November	288	222.1
	December	273	228.5
1977	January	245	237.3*

* = provisional.

Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production

In the three months ended January 1977 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 9 per cent more than in the three months ended January 1976.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

Hosiery and other knitted goods

1970 = 100

1968	88
1969	98
1970	100
1971	99
1972	99
1973	103
1974	100
1975	96
1976 p	101

Including warp knitting

		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974	1st quarter	91	98
	2nd quarter	103	105
	3rd quarter	97	101
	4th quarter	108	95
1975	1st quarter	87	96
	2nd quarter	95	94
	3rd quarter	94	98
	4th quarter	109	97
1976	1st quarter	90	98
	2nd quarter	95	97
	3rd quarter p	100	104
	4th quarter p	118	105
1975	October	121	100
	November	123	101
	December	84	90
1976	January	85	106
	February	94	97
	March	91	90
	April	92	101
	May	98	100
	June	96	89
	July p	92	106
	August p	96	107
	September p	112	100
	October p	132	109
	November p	126	103
	December p	96	104
1977	January p	96	118

p = provisional.

Inquiries: Tel. 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 15 April 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Joseph Andrews	BR/E 39106/17/4/82	103	13 April	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Woodfall Ltd, London
Yorke Peninsula	BR/E 39107/17/4/82	9	13 April	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	South Australian Film Corporation
Seal Island	BR/E 39108/17/4/82	55	13 April	Childrens Film Foundation Ltd	Pacesetter Productions Ltd, London
Movietone News 2497	BR/E 38858/17/4/82	8	15 April	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Number Two	EC 39109/17/4/82	89	15 April	The Other Cinema	Sonimage Productions Bela SNC, Paris

Vehicle production and new car registrations: provisional estimates for March

Provisional estimates of United Kingdom vehicle production in the five weeks ending 2 April 1977 are shown in table 1. Table 2 shows provisional estimates for new car registrations in Great Britain.

TABLE 1 UK vehicle production Thousands

	No. of weeks	Passenger cars: Recorded	Passenger cars: Seasonally adjusted (monthly average)	Commercial vehicles: Recorded	Commercial vehicles: Seasonally adjusted (monthly average)
1975	52	1,268	106	380.7	31.7
1976	53	1,333	111	372.1	31.0
1976 March	5	143	120	37.4	32.5
April	4	93	111	27.2	30.4
May	4	127	120	34.4	32.9
June	5	130	112	36.2	30.9
July	4	91	131	25.8	33.1
August	4	65	82	18.1	27.3
September	5	98	106	32.0	30.7
October	5	141	111	39.3	30.9
November	4	120	112	33.6	33.6
December	5	110	99	31.7	27.4
1977 January	4	123	128	33.4	37.5
February	4	97	101	32.4	34.0
March p	5	120	99	41.6	35.3
Percentage change Jan-Mar 1977 from Sep-Dec 1976			(+2)		(+16)

p = provisional.

Detailed statistics of United Kingdom overseas trade

Each month the overseas trade statistics give a considerable amount of detail about United Kingdom imports, exports of commodities and, for many of them the most important countries. The information in these statistics is a summary of much more detailed information. This is derived from declarations made by traders to HM Customs and Excise under the descriptions in the tariff and overseas trade classification (which has over 11,000 commodity headings); there are 199 specified countries.

The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but when circumstances allow. HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the tariff and overseas trade classsification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service.

Applications should be made to the Statistical Office, Bill of Entry Section, HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue; Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL, tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for exports; Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend.

TABLE 2 GB: new car registrations Thousands

	1975	1976	1976 Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	1977 Jan	Feb	Mar p
Recorded	1,167	1,256	115	116	118	95	53	180	86	96	104	61	112	122	123
Seasonally adjusted (monthly average)	97	105	102	116	110	91	91	115	86	109	119	111	93	118	109

Inquiries 01-212 0788.:

Retail sales – provisional estimate for March

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in March is 103½ (1971 = 100). The estimate suggests that trade in March was below the level of February, continuing the decline from the level of the second half of 1976.

The level of sales in the first quarter of 1977 was 3 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of last year. This fall reflects changes in the pattern of Christmas and New Year holidays and perhaps also the effect of the December budget.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in March was 15 per cent higher than in March 1976. In the first quarter of 1977, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1976.

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975 4th quarter	105.7	1975 4th quarter	+15
1976 1st quarter	107.3	1976 1st quarter	+15
2nd quarter	107.6	2nd quarter	+12
3rd quarter	108.9	3rd quarter	+15
4th quarter	108.5	4th quarter	+16
1977 1st quarter	105.2 (prov)	1977 1st quarter	+14 (prov)
1975 December	106.6	1975 December	+15
1976 January	110.2	1976 January	+16
February	106.6	February	+14
March	105.4	March	+13
1976 December	108.3	1976 December	+16
1977 January	106.7	1977 January	+13
February	105.7	February	+15
March	103½ (prov)	March	+15 (prov)

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for March will be published in a press notice on Monday, 9 May 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

Retailers' stocks in February

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of table 1, the level of stocks at book value in February was 17 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was unchanged.

The estimate of the value of the physical increase in retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted suggests a further fall in February, the fourth consecutive monthly fall following three months when stocks were increasing. The seasonally adjusted volume of retail sales in January and February has been below the level of the second half of 1976.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,886 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 Exceptionally the figures for January have been revised in the light of later information from contributors.

5 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

6 Long-run series back to 1966 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 17 September 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3220.

TABLE 1 **Level of retailers' stocks**

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* — At cost at end of month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	99	101	102	102	105	102	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	107	112	112	112	117	116	118	123	134	143	132
1974	128	129	135	139	144	145	144	143	149	161	171	154
1975	148	151	158	154	159	161	160	160	170	187	201	181
1976	172	174	184	185	184	184	180	181	193	215	230	207
1977	199 r	203										
1972	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	6
1973	8	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	21	21	20	19	17
1975	15	17	17	11	11	11	11	12	15	16	18	18
1976	16	15	17	20	16	14	13	13	14	15	14	14
1977	16 r	17										
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	94	96	98	98	97	99	96	96	98	106	111	100
1972	95	97	100	100	100	102	99	99	101	108	114	101
1973	98	101	105	110	114	117	115	115	119	127	135	123
1974	118	117	120	121	122	121	119	117	119	126	132	117
1975	110	109	113	108	109	110	107	106	112	122	129	115
1976	108	109	114	113	112	112	108	108	113	124	130	115
1977	109 r	109										
1972	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	1
1973	3	4	5	10	13	15	16	16	18	18	19	22
1974	21	16	14	9	8	3	3	1	−1	−1	−2	−5
1975	−7	−6	−6	−11	−11	−10	−10	−9	−6	−4	−2	−1
1976	−1	−1	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	—
1977	1 r	—										

TABLE 2 **Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices**

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−11	3	−8	2	−12	17	−7	16	5	24	−14	7
1972	−7	9	−1	13	6	21	−16	25	−22	9	−6	−16
1973	34	25	23	106	57	42	15	21	12	3	11	33
1974	12	−50	—	33	25	−39	10	−24	−25	−4	−19	−30
1975	−19	−30	11	−76	20	−10	5	−6	39	41	15	−13
1976	−24	−10	46	−5	−25	−25	−14	5	31	52	−2	−28
1977	−7 r	−22										

See note 2. r = revised figure

Wholesale price indices in March

Output prices

The provisional wholesale price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1 per cent in March to 250.8 (1970 = 100).

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco also increased by 1 per cent, most sectors showing price rises of this order. This index increased by 5½ per cent in the latest three months compared with 4¼ per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Higher prices for construction and earth-moving equipment were responsible for a quarter of the increase of 1¾ per cent in the mechanical engineering industry index. In the first quarter of 1977 this index has risen by 5½ per cent compared with an increase of 4¾ per cent in the first quarter of 1976. Higher prices for electrical machinery and domestic electrical appliances together accounted for more than half of the 1¾ per cent increase in the electrical engineering index.

In the latest three months the vehicles industry index, which increased by 1¼ per cent in March, has risen by 7 per cent. In the same period last year this index increased by 4¼ per cent.

About three-quarters of the 2 per cent increase in the pottery and glass industry index was accounted for by price increases for glass containers. Price rises for non-refractory and refractory goods were

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976						1977		
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	266.5	292.6	306.8	329.9	341.7	274.2	304.0	314.4	327.7	331.8	330.2	337.9 p	339.7	347.4
	Materials†	272.5	299.2	314.6	339.7	351.8	280.4	311.5	323.0	337.6	341.8	339.8	348.1 p	349.9	357.4
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	210.1	230.6	232.0	236.3	245.1	215.8	232.0	232.0	233.3	236.6	238.9	241.0	242.6	251.8
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	280.3	313.5	328.3	348.4	356.2	290.2	325.9	334.3	348.3	350.5	346.3	353.6 p	355.0	359.9
	Materials†	290.3	325.3	342.0	364.3	372.0	300.8	339.3	348.9	364.6	366.7	361.5	369.7 p	371.0	375.3
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	235.4	246.8	257.3	283.1	302.8	238.3	255.0	265.6	274.4	285.2	289.6	297.4	299.8	311.3
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	237.0	246.5	258.2	288.7	309.2	239.6	253.9	268.9	281.4	290.3	294.4	302.3	305.6	319.7
	Materials†	237.3	246.5	258.3	289.5	310.2	239.7	253.8	269.5	282.3	291.0	295.1	303.1	306.5	321.0
	Fuel	230.9	248.0	254.0	268.0	283.8	234.4	255.1	255.1	256.7	271.8	275.4	281.3	282.2	287.9
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	235.8	243.3	254.3	284.9	307.0	238.0	250.2	265.1	277.3	286.8	290.6	299.1	302.8	319.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	258.7	276.5	289.4	310.3	319.7	263.4	288.2	295.1	306.4	312.5	312.0	316.9 p	318.2	324.0
311 and 312	Steel industries	247.0	281.6	291.3	299.5	304.3	255.8	292.4	294.3	297.5	301.0	299.9	301.7 p	304.4	306.9
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	157.3	189.3	202.0	205.4	222.1	164.8	200.2	202.6	203.6	207.5	205.1	215.5	222.2	228.6
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	226.6	245.1	260.6	275.9	283.6	230.4	260.9	263.2	271.9	275.5	277.3	281.8	284.0	285.0
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	196.4	218.5	231.4	238.1	248.7	201.5	231.4	232.7	236.2	238.8	239.4	245.1	249.0	252.0
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	222.3	238.5	253.0	266.2	275.7	225.6	253.7	255.6	263.3	266.7	268.6	273.6	276.0	277.4
Order XII	Metal goods industries	234.4	258.3	272.3	291.4	297.1	239.8	272.0	275.5	287.7	293.3	293.3	294.2	297.3	299.7
Order XIII	Textile industries	232.4	255.9	275.1	298.8	299.3	238.5	273.5	281.4	296.9	301.2	298.2	298.6	299.4	299.9
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	197.4	209.1	219.1	231.0	241.2	200.0	218.1	222.9	228.1	232.0	232.8	239.0	241.4	243.3
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	245.1	259.0	271.1	282.4	298.5	250.2	271.8	273.9	276.6	283.5	287.2	294.1	297.3	304.2
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	237.8	248.5	259.6	274.6	289.6	240.7	259.8	262.9	267.1	276.4	280.2	285.9	288.5	294.3
Order XVII	Timber industries	235.2	259.7	285.9	307.0	319.5	241.4	287.3	291.3	300.5	308.4	312.2	317.6	319.9	321.0
481 to 484	Paper industries	253.5	273.7	286.4	304.7	312.3	258.4	284.2	292.1	302.6	306.5	304.9	310.9	312.2	313.8
Order XX	Construction materials	227.2	242.5	258.2	271.5	283.8	230.9	259.3	261.4	267.8	272.1	274.5	279.5	284.7	287.2
Part of Order XX	House building materials	229.2	244.7	261.6	276.3	288.2	233.0	262.7	265.2	272.6	277.0	279.2	283.5	289.5	291.7

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

together responsible for half of the 1¾ per cent increase in the index for the bricks and cement etc industries.

Higher prices for building joinery and domestic furniture made the most significant contributions to the 1 per cent increase in the index for the timber industries which has risen by 6½ per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with 4½ per cent in the first quarter of 1976.

Higher prices for bread and flour confectionery, animal and poultry foods and fruit and vegetable products accounted for half of the rise of 1½ per cent in the index for the food manufacturing industries. This index rose by 6 per cent in the first quarter of 1977 compared with 6¼ per cent in the previous quarter but only 2¼ per cent in the corresponding quarter of 1976.

(text continued on page 146)

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976						1977		
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
361	Electrical machinery industry	211.5	230.9	245.2	256.2	263.8	215.9	245.6	247.3	253.9	256.7	258.0	261.9	264.1	265.4
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	152.1	179.3	191.4	187.0	192.6	158.8	191.5	189.4	187.3	187.6	186.0	193.5	198.4	202.5
364	Radio and electronic components industry	209.7	224.6	237.1	248.4	259.2	212.6	237.3	240.2	245.2	249.2	250.7	255.9	259.4	262.3
368	Domestic appliances industry	205.3	222.3	234.4	246.1	251.7	208.9	234.4	237.1	243.4	246.9	248.5	252.4	254.3	256.0
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	200.7	219.6	231.6	240.9	253.9	204.7	231.3	233.9	238.7	241.3	242.6	249.1	254.3	258.4
381	Motor vehicle industry	229.6	247.4	261.4	276.3	288.2	234.0	261.8	265.6	273.3	277.0	278.5	282.9	285.4	286.4
411	Man-made fibres industry	231.1	248.1	259.0	275.8	278.8	236.1	258.1	264.5	273.7	277.1	276.5	277.1	278.3	280.9
414	Woollen and worsted industry	255.2	282.9	302.2	338.4	336.1	264.5	299.7	313.8	337.9	340.6	336.7	340.4	336.3	331.5
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	210.1	224.2	243.3	257.5	267.8	212.5	242.3	248.9	254.3	258.1	260.0	265.4	268.6	269.4
450	Footwear industry	198.3	214.7	222.9	231.6	240.7	200.8	222.0	226.6	229.7	232.2	232.8	236.2	240.5	245.5
481	Paper and board making industry	262.8	288.5	299.3	318.4	317.7	268.7	297.7	304.7	317.1	320.2	317.8	314.9	318.0	320.1

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976				1977	1976						1977		
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr p	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
Orders III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	206.9	214.4	223.2	233.9	248.0	208.6	223.4	226.3	230.0	234.6	237.2	244.9	248.2	250.8
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	214.5	222.0	230.8	241.2	254.5	216.6	231.4	233.6	237.0	242.0	244.5	251.0	254.9	257.7
211 to 229	Output of selected broad sectors of industry Food manufacturing industries	215.2	222.2	233.8	252.2	267.3	216.6	232.8	240 7	248.4	252.5	255.8	263.9	267.1	270.9
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	215.5	220.5	230.2	247.3	262.5	217.0	228.9	237.2	244.1	247.5	250.4	259.3	262.2	266.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	206.5	213.7	221.0	228.8	239.6	208.5	221.3	223.4	226.1	228.8	231.5	237.8	239.5	241.6
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	217.7	240.6	259.1	271.8	281.7	221.1	259.6	261.3	269.9	272.4	273.2	278.9	282.2	284.1
311 and 312	Steel industries	237.3	260.3	281.8	300.2	307.8	239.4	283.3	283.8	298.1	301.2	301.4	306.6	307.9	308.9
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	209.9	217.7	226.6	236.3	248.4	212.1	227.1	229.4	232.8	237.0	239.0	244.1	248.7	252.5
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	218.6	226.1	235.4	244.5	256.2	220.6	235.1	238.0	241.8	244.7	247.0	252.6	255.6	260.3
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	184.9	190.9	196.7	203.7	212.0	187.0	197.0	199.4	201.0	203.5	206.7	210.1	212.5	213.4
Order IX	Electrical engineering	191.5	199.1	205.8	214.1	223.3	193.7	205.5	208.3	212.6	214.4	215.4	220.7 p	223.0	226.3
Order XI	Vehicles	227.7	236.8	247.6	260.0	277.7	230.0	249.4	251.7	253.0	262.1	265.0	268.9	280.4	283.8
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	215.7	227.1	238.3	253.6	263.5	218.3	238.4	241.2	249.6	255.0	256.1	261.2	263.6	265.7
Order XIII	Textile industries	193.0	201.1	209.6	219.9	234.5	195.2	209.3	212.2	217.2	220.2	222.4	232.4	235.0	236.1
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	176.6	180.3	186.4	193.7	202.2	178.3	185.8	189.0	192.2	194.2	194.8	201.5	202.3	202.7
441/449	Made-up clothing	172.6	175.9	180.2	188.5	195.3	174.5	179.3	183.0	187.1	188.8	189.6	195.8	195.3	195.6
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	231.5	243.1	254.3	265.6	279.7	234.9	255.0	257.2	261.2	265.7	270.0	273.4	280.6	285.2
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	215.4	223.2	230.2	241.5	251.5	217.2	230.5	232.6	239.7	241.8	243.0	247.2	251.1	256.2
Order XVII	Timber industries	218.7	225.5	235.7	248.5	266.4	221.2	236.5	239.3	244.0	247.8	253.6	261.7	267.2	270.2
481 to 484	Paper industries	235.4	242.4	254.6	266.0	278.4	235.9	254.1	260.9	262.2	265.7	270.1	277.7	278.4	279.1
Order XX	New construction‡	238	246	264	282 p			264			282 p				

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*) r = revisions.

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970=100

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
101	Coal	344.5	356.1	356.1	356.3	400.2
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	295.1	343.2	351.5	358.2	362.5
	Aggregates for concrete	201.2	225.3	227.1	230.7	234.8
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	208.2	254.8	259.2	275.9	276.4
240	Tobacco	156.0	175.1	190.6	190.6	190.6
261	Foundry coke	398.2	404.2	404.2	404.2	468.7
262	Motor spirit, two star including duty)ø	183.5	220.4	221.4	221.4	221.4
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)ø	346.4	443.6	462.9	462.9	462.9
	Derv fuel (including duty)ø	167.9	211.3	217.0	217.0	217.0
263	Lubricating oils and greases	233.5	255.6	269.7	276.1	279.1
271	General chemicals	226.7	264.5	268.8	271.0	274.7
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	225.3	253.6	258.8	261.6	266.4
271/2	Organic chemicals	252.3	294.3	297.4	298.2	300.1
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	194.4 r	229.4 r	229.4	242.7	248.5
	Pharmaceutical preparations	181.5	205.0	208.0	209.7	211.0
273	Toilet preparations	184.0	200.1	206.5	210.8	213.1
274	Paint	220.9	236.0	238.8	240.3	240.9
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	198.4	227.2	232.9	234.3	238.0
	Polyolefin moulding materials	210.9	246.0	245.7	245.7	248.6
	Polyvinyl chlorides	219.8	262.7	262.7	263.6	269.0
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	241.1	268.2	275.0	275.3	277.9
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	202.1	299.7	299.7	296.0	295.2
	Tinplate	238.5	274.0	274.0	290.8	303.4
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	244.5	306.4	313.6	314.8	315.2
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	254.3	303.5	303.5	303.5	303.5
	Steel sheet piling	265.8	309.9	330.7	331.4	331.4
	Heavy steel bars and sections	264.3	298.5	331.3	332.4	332.4
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	238.6	333.6	333.6	333.6	333.6
	Finished stainless steels	186.4	232.0	249.1	256.1	256.1
	Steel castings	229.6	272.7	279.2	279.5	279.5
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	315.3	377.4	384.9	388.7	389.6
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	261.4	312.2	312.2	312.2	312.2
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	258.8	291.3	297.3	298.3	299.3
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	286.0	308.4	310.3	312.5	312.5
321	Wrought aluminium	194.5 r	248.3 r	258.1	267.7	270.1
	Aluminium: Rolled	178.9 r	239.8 r	257.6	271.7	271.7
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	189.6 r	255.4 r	267.7	275.2	275.2
	Aluminium: Castings	216.8	257.4	260.6	268.5	272.3
	Aluminium: Forgings	190.6	231.0	231.0	231.0	242.6
322	Brass ingots	138.6	162.0	167.2	170.3	170.3
331	Agricultural machinery	222.9	262.3	275.0 p	276.4	279.3
331/1	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	226.7	261.1	272.5	273.3	276.1 e
331/3	Harvesting, threshing, feed processing machinery, etc.	228.5	272.2	285.0	286.5	290.0 e
	Pick-up balers	233.0	281.2	282.7	287.7	289.8 e
	Hay and silage making machinery	187.5	218.6	225.5	225.5	225.5 e
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	217.8	259.9	259.9	265.5	271.3 e
331/5	Milking machines	206.2	236.9	264.2 p	266.0	268.6 e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors, etc)	204.0	252.0	252.2	253.5	254.3 e
332	Metal-working machine tools	237.3	265.5	274.8 p	277.1	279.8 e
332/1	Metal cutting machine tools	241.7	266.7	278.5 p	281.2	282.5 e
332/2	Metal forming machine tools	228.5	256.5	267.0 p	269.2	272.0 e
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	220.8	238.6	241.5 p	243.9	249.5
333/1	Pumps	203.7	223.8	227.8 p	232.6	232.8
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	192.8	208.4	219.8	221.2	222.3 e
	Industrial pumps	204.3	224.7	228.3 p	233.3	233.4 e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	207.1	229.8	233.5 p	241.0	241.3 e
333/2	Industrial valves	251.7	264.7	267.6 p	268.1	271.7 e
	Iron valves	246.6	271.2	275.6 p	277.1	280.8 e
	Steel valves	275.8	270.7	274.2	274.2	278.1 e
	Non-ferrous valves	224.9	251.3	252.0 p	252.3	255.2 e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	223.0	245.1	246.3	248.2	273.0 e
333/4	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	204.0	224.6	228.3	231.2	232.8 e
333/5	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	175.8	193.5	193.5	196.0	205.1 e
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	218.2	248.9	251.7	255.4	260.0
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	222.5	254.4	258.2	261.7	275.4
336/1	Contractors' plant and parts	222.1	253.3	257.5	261.2	275.1 e
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc	241.2	279.3	285.2	286.0	305.8 e
	Concrete mixers	222.5	240.7	242.3	244.3	259.6 e
	Dumpers	219.0	242.7	247.4	251.0	265.4 e
	Crawler tractors	197.1	234.6	237.9	244.0	253.7 e
336/2	Crushing and screening plant and parts	227.7	259.7	259.7	259.7	269.7 e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	213.5	237.4	243.8 p	246.5	251.2
337/2	Cranes	208.4	234.7	246.6	250.8	251.5
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	217.2	241.2	250.7	256.0	256.0
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	224.3	255.1	260.7 p	262.2	267.5
339/1	Mining machinery	196.3	216.4	220.9 p	225.0	225.9 e
339/3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	207.8	247.1	251.3	251.7	268.2
339/5	Scales and weighing machinery	238.8	253.4	258.8	264.0	265.0 e
339/6	Portable power tools	198.9	222.9	229.6	231.2	236.7 e
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	208.3	237.1	247.2 p	249.0	250.4
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	211.0	232.6 p	242.3 p	244.6	245.3
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	211.8	242.2 p	248.4 p	251.7	254.4 e
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	206.3	220.5 p	233.1 p	238.7	239.7

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	188.0	207.4	210.6	213.3	214.1 e
354/1	Microscopes	179.0	193.9	194.9	194.9	216.2 e
354/2	Process measuring and control instruments	197.2	218.4	221.4	221.8	222.3 e
	Analytical instruments	175.6	188.1	197.4	197.5	198.5 e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	149.7	157.5	163.3	163.3	165.4 e
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	183.4	199.2	199.7	202.4	202.4 e
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	144.8	155.8	158.4 p	159.2	160.6 e
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-recorded tapes	177.0	197.0	197.0	197.0	197.0 e
	Gramophone records	182.6	203.5	203.5	203.5	203.5 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	180.2	199.7	199.7	199.7	199.7 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	153.4	170.1	170.1	170.1	170.1 e
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	141.3	151.3	154.2 p	155.0	156.6 e
	Domestic television receivers – colour †	130.5	139.9	141.6 p	141.7	143.0 e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome †	145.9	157.4	160.7 p	161.9	163.9 e
	Domestic television receivers †	142.5	153.5	156.4 p	157.4	159.2 e
	Record players and tape recorders	139.2	148.4	148.7 p	148.1	149.4 e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	174.5	195.6	201.4	202.0	210.8
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	181.5	204.0	209.9	210.1	220.0 e
	Electric cookers	178.1	203.3	208.1	208.1	219.5 e
368/3	Domestic electrical heating appliances	187.7	212.2	215.9	215 9	217.9 e
	Electric fires	179.6	212.0	218.7	218 7	218.7 e
	Electric water heaters, wash boilers, etc.	235.6	263.2	264.6	264.6	274.1 e
368/4	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	178.6	206.4	209.2	211.6	228.0 e
	Domestic electric flat irons	208.2	225.1	231.2	231.7	246.2 e
368/6	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	167.8	184.1	194.0	195.5	197.0 e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	171.3	191.0	202.4	202.4	204.5 e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	207.4	248.2	248.2 p	254.5	256.2 e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	188.4	201.8	201.8	204.2	207.9 e
369/5	Installation materials, domestic	193.7	228.9	230.9	235.3	238.9 e
380	Wheeled tractors	273.3	319.7	332.3	339.7	344.1
381/1	Passenger cars	222.8	258.0	259.5	272.1	275.4 e
381/1	Passenger cars ‡	203.1	235.2	236.6	248.1	251.1 e
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	242.2	280.9	283.6	297.6	301.4 e
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	244.5	282.7	284.7	300.1	304.7 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	242.0	280.4	285.0	297.4	299.9 e
381/3	Public service vehicles	243.4	272.3	275.1	287.6	289.8 e
390	Engineers' cutting tools	185.8	218.2	223.2	227.5	228.5
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	162.7	172.7	187.4	191.6	191.6
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	187.5	220.8	225.2	229.9	229.9
	Hacksaw blades	185.9	231.7	234.4	234.4	253.2
391	Hand tools and implements	226.5	266.8	273.2	276.9	283.1
392	Cutlery and tableware etc.	209.0	239.0	245.8	248.1	252.7
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	197.2	225.3	229.2	232.6	234.7
	Metal non-domestic furniture	205.0	236.1	239.9	241.9	244.8
	Metal chairs	185.2	198.6	200.7	202.9	207.1
	Metal cabinets	201.3	224.2 r	232.9	235.5	235.5
399/2	Metal windows and curtain walling	311.6	371.5	396.6	398.4	400.2
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	174.0	192.8	209.2	210.1	210.4
	Gas cookers	174.5	191.5	209.7	211.1	211.1
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	188.0	211.9	230.1	230.6	232.0
	Gas fires and space heaters	187.1	187.6	199.6	199.6	200.1
399/12	Catering equipment	200.8	227.5	231.8	234.5	235.1
	Plumbers' brassware	181.9	203.3	210.1	211.6	212.4
	Domestic oil burning appliances	211.2	240.1	259.8	259.8	259.8
411	Man-made fibres production	167.4	186.7	191.3	192.5	192.7
412, 414/5, and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	183.9	213.8	215.0 p	216.8	217.3
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	215.2	281.3	276.2 p	278.3	279.0
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	208.2	256.3	259.5	264.4	265.1
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	207.5	221.3	230.3	231.4	232.0
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	215.5	268.4	282.1	283.0	284.2
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	163.8	177.5	188.9	191.5	192.2
419	Carpets and rugs	201.7	228.5	237.3	239.2	241.9
	Carpets	201.4	228.2	237.2	238.7	241.2 e
	Carpets – woven	219.4	253.6	262.8	264.0	266.9 e
	Tufted carpets	166.1	178.0	186.5	188.7	190.5 e
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	193.0	219.0	232.5	233.4	233.7
431/1	Leather for footwear	183.1	210.8	211.0	215.7	224.2
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	187.6	208.6	218.9 p	221.4	222.1
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	242.4 r	289.5	292.2	294.2	304.4
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	240.4	272.5	274.8	279.9	288.4
	Engineering bricks – delivered	280.2	303.4	310.6	314.5	319.3
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	218.6	234.7	241.4	247.3	248.8
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	197.8	210.4	226.3	232.8	232.8
463/2	Glass containers	220.0	254.7	256.0	256.8	270.1
464	Cement – delivered in bulk	243.4	269.8	269.8	279.8	280.6
469/2	Precast concrete products	225.8	256.0	261.0	268.0	270.5
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	283.9	299.6	307.9	319.4	319.8
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	212.8	234.5	240.1	248.2	248.9

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976	1977			
		Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
	Plaster gypsum	212.1	241.3	243.9	243.9	243.9
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	230.1	264.8	271.7	279.0	280.5
471/2	Building joinery	246.8	298.1	312.0	315.9	320.5
472	Furniture and upholstery	205.9	225.5	231.9	237.2	240.6
	Domestic furniture	202.0	222.1	227.0	233.2	235.6 e
	Bedroom furniture	186.3	203.3	207.3	210.0	212.2 e
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	203.5	222.7	229.7	239.3	239.7 e
	Dining room furniture	206.9	225.3	234.0	244.2	245.4
	Kitchen furniture	223.6	257.0	262.6	264.7	271.1 e
	Upholstered furniture	193.2	206.9	210.5	219.6 e	220.3 e
473	Bedding, etc.	222.9	244.3	250.6	270.8	271.4
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	229.1	246.0	252.1	278.5	278.5
	Divan sets	246.3	264.3	273.4	289.3 e	289.3 e
481	Paper and board	226.7	273.5	284.1	284.3	284.5
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	217.3	280.0	285.8	285.8	285.8
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	237.5	268.8	272.6	273.1	274.4
483	Manufactured stationery	236.8	266.8	285.3	288.8	288.8
484/1	Wallpaper	225.1	230.1	239.1	239.1	239.1
489	General printing, bookbinding, etc.	202.2	220.1	223.3	226.0	227.6
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	191.4	224.1	224.3	232.2	235.7
492	Linoleum and felt base	202.2	217.0	221.1	226.3	226.3 e
Part 399 and 472	Office furniture	226.8	251.3	262.5	263.8	270.3
Part 338/ 499/472	Office equipment and machinery	185.8	203.9	209.7	211.4	215.4

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates.
p provisional.
e estimates which are subject to possible major revisions.
† Excludes sales to rental companies.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and car tax.
r revised.

Revisions to Table 3(a)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	189.4	194.4	194.4	204.4	214.0	215.6	217.3	220.2	220.2	220.1	226.0	—	1976
321	Wrought aluminium	189.5	191.6	194.5	198.2	204.7	211.5	217.9	226.3	236.2	241.5	245.7	—	1976
	Aluminium: rolled	177.3	177.2	178.9	180.5	181.1	193.4	204.3	213.5	222.9	232.0	238.5	—	1976
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	187.5	190.1	189.6	193.4	202.8	205.8	216.9	237.6	244.5	248.6	252.8	—	1976
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	236.6	—	—	1976
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	219.3	—	1976
483	Manufactured stationery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	256.4	259.6	261.2	263.4	—	1976
	Confirmation of figures previously published as provisional													

(text continued from page 143)

The indices for all other sectors of industry rose by between ¼ and 1 per cent.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period, at 20¼ per cent, was above 20 per cent for the first time since December 1975.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 2¼ per cent to 347.4.

The index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries was 1½ per cent higher. Nearly three-quarters of this increase was accounted for by higher prices for coal. Higher prices for coal other than for carbonising accounted for the whole of the 3¾ per cent increase in the index for coal, gas and electricity. Coal for carbonising, which is the material for making coke, accounted for over half of the 1¼ per cent increase in the index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries.

Almost three-quarters of the 2¼ per cent increase in the index for the bricks, cement etc industries was accounted for by coal other than for carbonising. Coal also accounted for a quarter of the increase of 1¾ per cent in the chemicals and allied industries index. To a lesser extent the increased cost of coal also contributed towards the 2 per cent rise in the pottery and glass industries index. Almost half of this increase was caused by higher prices for soda ash.

Lower prices for imported mohair and wool nearly offset the higher prices for coal and other materials, and limited the increase in the textile industry to ¼ per cent. While in the paper sector the effect of the increased cost of coal was partly offset by lower prices for imported wood-pulp.

Increases in the cost of copper and lead were mainly responsible for the increase of 3 per cent in March and 11½ per cent in the first quarter in the index for the non-ferrous metals industry. Copper and lead prices partly offset by lower prices for certain imported steel products were mainly responsible for the increase of 1¼ per cent in the index for the electrical engineering industry. The lower prices for imported steel also limited the rises in the ship-building and the metal goods industries to ¼ per cent and ¾ per cent respectively. The increase in the index for metal goods was mainly accounted for by higher prices for tinplate and, to a lesser extent, gold and silver.

About half of the increase of ¾ per cent in the index for the clothing and footwear industries was accounted for by higher prices for the leather used in footwear. Increases of 1 per cent and ¾ per cent in the prices of materials used in the construction and house-building industries respectively reflected a general upward movement of prices in the purchases of these two sectors.

The provisional index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries increased by 4¾ per cent. This was again largely accounted for by higher prices for many imported food materials. Higher prices for tea had the most significant effect accounting for 3 per cent and higher coffee prices accounted for a further 1 per cent. Lower prices for many home-produced food materials, especially potatoes, more than offset the effect of higher prices for home-produced meat. In the first quarter imported food material prices increased by 17¼ per cent compared with 3 per cent for those produced at home.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no. 01-215 5051).

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1976		1977		
	Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
Hides and skins	283.0	344.3	372.5	376.6	387.0
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	164.1	226.3	241.5	246.2	246.2
Copper*	136.9	128.4	138.4	141.2	149.3
Lead‡	155.5	223.7	255.6	298.1	328.3
Nickel§	201.4	270.4	264.5	260.0	261.5
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	232.6	323.7	361.7	390.8	400.4
Zinc‡	304.9	309.4	325.9	333.4	343.7
Zinc§	319.4	370.9	362.9	364.4	361.8
Natural rubber	228.0	278.2	281.6	282.9	283.0
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	297 1	288.1	297.2	297.2	297.2
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	273.4	417.7	385.3	403.5	404.4
American types, cif Liverpool	283.0	415.2	381.8	406.8	416.3
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	225.5	430.1	402.5	387.1	345.2

	1976		1977		
	Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb p	Mar p
Raw wool – all types	263.0	357.3	364.5	357.2	355.5
Imported	262.0	352.1	358.9	349.7	345.7
Imported, merino	343.4	315.2	323.7	318.5	313.7
Imported, fine crossbred	258.1	350.8	360.9	348.4	342.5
Imported, medium and coarse cross-bred	328.2	461.2	462.5	447.3	445.9
British types	268.5	386.9	396.2	399.4	411.1
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	261.6	329.5	336.2	341.4	346.8 e
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	241.2	320.7	324.9	325.7	325.7 e
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	264.7	376.3	380.8	382.6	382.6 e
Woodpulp, imported	306.9	361.9	352.3	353.2	351.9

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p provisional. e estimates which are subject to possible major revision.

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1975

This review of all mineral statistics relating to the United Kingdom, is the third in a series produced annually by the Institute of Geological Sciences. It is an attempt to encompass in one source all the statistical information on production, trade and consumption of minerals and their derivatives collected by various government departments, and industrial and trade organisations. Data for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and individual counties are featured, and the statistics – in metric units throughout – are illustrated by numerous diagrams.

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Table 4(a) Supplementary list of commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published April, August and December)

1968 SIC		1976 Oct	Nov	Dec	1977 Jan	Feb p
102	Stone and slate quarrying and mining	275.8	278.3	287.5	296.0	299.2
	Stone quarrying and mining	274.0	276.6	286.1	293.7	296.5
	Granite and other chippings, aggregates and roadstones	231.8	231.4	237.9	242.7	244.5
	Granite and other chippings	239.4	239.8	246.6	249.3	254.8
	Coated granite and whinstone roadstone	321.9	324.4	343.3	354.8	357.5
	Uncoated limestone roadstone and aggregates	251.0	251.5	258.5	263.4	266.4
	Uncoated limestone roadstone (excluding aggregate)	238.2	239.0	242.2	248.1	248.7
	Agricultural ground limestone	200.3	203.5	203.5	220.6	221.2
	Industrial ground limestone	242.3	244.7	244.7	250.3	250.3
	Granite and limestone roadstone	259.7	261.3	269.7	275.4	278.6
	Slates	333.7	333.7	333.7	369.7	384.5
103	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction	249.2	252.3	252.3	256.8	271.9
	China clay	240.4	240.4	240.4	240.4	240.4
	Sand and gravel – delivered	206.3	207.6	207.6	209.6	228.0
	Moulding sand	214.8	214.8	214.8	229.2	229.2
109/3	Salt	226.1	226.1	253.8	253.8	253.8
211	Flour for bread making	296.3	301.6	301.6	301.6	301.6
216	Sugar – bulk granulated	306.7	306.7	306.7	306.7	306.8
217	Chocolate and sugar confectionery	251.4	258.9	259.0	272.7	283.9
221	Vegetable and animal oils and fats	273.5	290.1	288.3	291.9	298.0
231	Brewing and malting	176.4	178.4	178.8	190.3	191.7
240	Cigarettes	169.2	173.0	175.2	190.9	190.9
	Pipe tobacco	169.1	173.5	174.9	188.0	188.2
271/1	Caustic soda, soda ash and other sodium and compounds	307.8	313.2	313.3	315.2	315.9
	Caustic soda	268.7	268.7	268.7	268.7	269.8
	Soda ash	346.0	354.6	354.6	354.6	354.6
	Other sodium compounds	307.1	315.0	315.1	321.7	322.6
	Inorganic chemicals other than sodium and sodium compounds	233.1	235.0	234.8	241.0	244.4
	Sulphuric and other inorganic acids	201.2	201.2	201.2	207.0	208.2
	Sulphuric acid	168.0	168.0	168.0	179.9	181.8
	Inorganic acids (other than sulphuric)	230.4	230.4	230.4	230.9	231.4
	Blacks, carbon and mineral	280.3	280.3	280.3	330.1	330.1
	Phosphorous and phosphorous compounds	353.6	353.6	353.6	353.6	353.6
271/2	Alcohols	296.0	299.2	300.9	303.5	304.3
	Coal tar products	384.3	384.3	384.3	384.3	384.3
	Halogenated, sulphonated nitrated or nitrostated derivatives of hydrocarbons	202.5	212.4	213.7	216.5	217.4
	Phenols	316.1	316.1	316.1	316.1	316.1
	Nitrogen-function organic compounds	200.2	215.3	215.3	215.8	216.7
271/3	Bleaching materials	222.5	239.3	239.7	240.0	248.6
	Plasticisers	239.3	239.3	246.5	248.9	253.5
	Phthalate plasticisers	233.5	233.5	243.4	246.6	246.6
272/2	Anti-infective agents	177.1	177.8	183.6	184.2	184.3
	Antibiotic preparations	150.7	151.0	162.4	163.6	163.7
	Hormone preparations	129.6	129.6	129.6	133.0	133.2
	Preparations affecting metabolism and nutrition	215.8	217.4	218.4	219.1	222.6
	Vitamins	182.0	187.2	187.2	187.2	187.2
	Preparations affecting the nervous system	208.6	209.0	209.3	214.0	216.5
	Analgesics	227.4	228.2	228.4	232.9	235.0
	Aspirin and compounds	234.7	235.8	236.1	242.5	244.4
	Other analgesics	212.7	212.7	212.7	213.7	216.0
	Anti-depressives	205.6	205.6	209.6	211.3	232.6
	Preparations acting on the cardiovascular system	155.0	158.3	160.6	164.5	170.0
	Preparations acting on the alimentary system	244.8	247.6	248.7	248.7	249.1
	Laxatives	264.3	264.3	264.3	264.3	264.3
	Preparations acting on the respiratory system	239.6	239.6	242.2	247.9	248.8
273	Hair settings, lotions and spirits	165.1	167.2	176.2	180.4	182.1
	Soapless shampoos	190.6	190.7	192.5	210.7	210.9
	Dental preparations	193.9	207.2	208.3	210.5	215.7
	Preparations especially for men	211.0	212.9	213.3	218.4	220.2
	Make-up	208.3	209.8	213.6	218.7	222.1
	Face powders	209.5	211.4	214.0	220.6	222.8
	Lipsticks	212.2	214.7	216.4	220.7	221.4
	Manicure preparations	237.8	241.0	241.0	245.5	247.4
	Other make-ups	197.2	198.4	198.4	204.3	211.0
	Eye make-up	186.0	186.0	197.7	201.7	205.3
	Treatment creams	204.4	207.9	209.3	215.1	216.7
	Face creams	179.3	184.7	188.1	190.2	191.6
	Hand creams and jellies	233.4	233.4	233.4	241.9	241.9
	Face and skin lotions	215.0	218.6	218.6	227.3	230.4
	Talcum, baby and other dusting powders	219.1	219.1	219.9	230.1	235.2
	Depilatories and deodorants	168.9	169.0	169.0	172.8	175.1
274	Oil and/or synthetic-based, non-aqueous air-drying primers, surfacers and sealers	260.4	265.2	273.5	273.5	273.5
	Oil and/or synthetic-based non-aqueous air-drying undercoats	219.2	220.2	227.1	228.6	228.6
	Oil and/or synthetic-based, non-aqueous air-drying finishes	215.8	217.8	227.9	229.4	229.4
	Emulsion paints	194.5	197.0	202.4	206.9	206.9
	Paste fillers and mastics	259.3	260.4	260.4	263.8	267.0
275	Soaps, detergents, candles and glycerine	217.8	221.5	222.1	230.2	232.9
	Glycerine	284.7	284.7	284.7	290.9	291.6
	Soap (excluding scouring powders)	218.6	219.4	220.1	230.6	232.7
	Toilet and shaving soap	225.3	226.9	228.5	240.1	243.8
	Soapless detergents	202 1	203.1	203.3	208.1	209.6
	Soapless detergents: pastes and other forms (excluding powders)	196.9	199.4	199.7	201.7	204.8
	Scouring powders	217.0	226.8	226.8	236.1	236.4
	Oleine, stearine, etc.	244.1	261.1	263.7	275.7	283.6

TABLE 4(a) (*continued*)

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p
276	Synthetic resins, plastics materials and synthetic rubber	225.8	229.3	230.6	235.8	237.1
	Laminated materials	260.5	265.9	274.6	274.7	274.7
	Phenolic and cresylic plastics – resins	267.4	267.4	267.4	278.0	294.9
	Phenolic and cresylic plastics – moulding powders	218.4	218.4	218.4	218.4	228.7
	Polystyrene and styrene co-polymers – moulding powders	265.2	266.8	267.0	267.6	268.3
	General purpose polystyrene	321.9	321.9	321.8	322.2	322.0
	Expandable polystyrene and styrene copolymers	229.9	244.5	245.4	245.4	245.4
	Transparent cellulose wrapping	213.0	214.5	214.9	214.9	219.3
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	228.4	231.6	235.6	238.3	240.6
	Pigments	251.1	256.2	262.8	265.1	268.9
	Inorganic pigments and earth colours	232.2	232.2	232.2	246.3	261.4
	White lead, dry*	215.2	213.1	211.5	228.3	251.3
279	Other chemical industries	224.2	226.5	231.1	236.2	237.2
279/2	Adhesives	228.1	231.3	233.1	245.1	253.5
279/4	Formulated pesticides	230.7	231.6	233.7	241.1	242.4
	Herbicides	244.2	244.6	247.5	257.4	258.4
279/6	Surgical and medical dressings and sanitary towels	218.8	221.4	224.1	227.9	229.2
	Surgical and medical dressings	212.8	217.3	220.1	224.8	226.5
	Sanitary towels	225.4	225.8	228.5	231.2	232.2
279/7	Photographic paper and film and photochemical materials	197.7	201.8	208.0	213.2	213.2
	Sensitised paper, cloth, etc.	198.1	200.6	204.3	211.1	211.1
311/2	Steel sheets	283.2	284.6	284.6	289.2	286.8
	Electrical steel sheets	269.8	269.8	269.8	296.0	296.9
	Stainless steel sheets	209.1	210.4	210.4	234.6	235.4
	Galvanised steel sheets	288.7	289.9	289.9	289.9	289.9
	Semi-finished steels	346.2	348.2	348.2	348.5	348.6
	Semi-finished steels for forgings (other than drop forgings)	360.5	362.5	362.5	362.5	363.3
	Semi-finished steel for alloy, and stainless products (except sheets and tubes)	300.4	302.1	302.1	302.8	303.1
	Semi-finished steel for drop forgings and stampings	350.1	352.2	352.2	352.2	352.2
	Semi-finished steel for tubes	357.3	359.4	359.4	359.7	359.8
	Semi-finished steel for forgings (other than drop forgings) (using public sector indicators)	358.4	360.1	360.1	360.1	360.1
	Steel wire rods	317.8	319.7	319.7	319.7	319.7
	Heavy steel rails and fishplates	315.5	315.5	315.5	346.7	347.7
	Steel plates, alloy	284.2	284.8	284.8	284.8	284.8
	Hot rolled steel strip	354.5	356.9	356.9	356.9	356.9
	Bright steel bars, non-alloy	310.3	315.7	315.7	315.7	315.7
	Cold rolled steel strip, non-alloy	279.5	287.8	287.8	287.8	287.8
	Alloy steel bars and rods, black (excluding stainless)	277.6	279.1	279.1	279.1	279.1
	High speed, tool and magnet steel	256.6	261.2	261.2	262.6	277.5
	Carbon steel castings	275.0	279.0	281.2	283.5	283.8
	Alloy steel castings, stainless and heat-resisting	227.4	227.7	227.9	239.0	239.0
	Other alloy steel castings	290.9	293.5	294.9	306.4	306.9
312	Steel tubes and fittings	301.1	310.3	310.9	310.9	310.9
	Non-alloy steel tubes, hot finished	317.7	325.0	325.0	325.0	325.0
	Pipe fittings	276.4	276.4	278.8	279.7	279.7
313	Iron castings, etc	295.3	295.7	300.9	306.0	306.8
	Automobile iron castings	267.5	268.4	268.4	275.8	278.6
	Engineer's castings (other than automobile castings)	281.9	281.9	289.7	297.5	297.5
	Malleable iron castings	294.4	296.3	305.0	305.2	305.6
	Cast iron stoves and grates, etc	313.9	313.9	338.2	340.7	340.7
	Building and domestic castings (excluding malleable)	302.0	302.2	314.2	320.8	322.5
321	Aluminium plate, sheet and strip	231.2	237.8	238.3	256.7	270.4
322	Copper tubes	163.9	158.8	156.0	165.3	170.8
	Copper sheet and strip	161.4	160.5	158.1	169.3	172.7
	Wrought brass	181.3	182.1	178.8	187.9	190.4
	Brass stip and sheet (and yellow metal condenser plates)	178.5	180.6	177.4	186.2	187.9
323	Magnesium ingots, electrolyte min. 99.8%*	343.8	366.0	366.0	366.0	366.0
	Titanium (alloy billets)	219.3	219.3	219.3	219.3	219.3
	Silicon min. 98% pure*	342.5	342.5	342.5	366.6	376.5
	Zinc sheet, 1-17mm basis*	375.8	375.8	375.8	375.8	375.8
	Bismuth§	183.0	182.9	179.0	175.2	174.6
	Cobalt metal, delivered UK*	322.0	343.6	325.8	332.6	331.3
	Lead sheet and pipe	216.2	215.1	211.8	228.8	255.2
391	Handsaws and blades (excluding hacksaws)	262.6	268.3	268.3	284.8	286.2
	Pliers, pincers and nippers	280.2	287.9	287.9	297.7	297.7
	Agricultural, horticultural and other heavy edged tools	260.1	260.1	265.8	276.6	278.2
	Carpenters', builders' and other light edged tools	246.7	246.7	248.5	248.5	254.0
	Spanners and wrenches	266.0	267.8	267.8	273.9	278.2
392	Razors and razor blades	184.4	195.3	195.3	203.6	204.4
	Razor blades	185.0	196.3	196.3	204.5	205.4
	Knives, scissors, etc	261.4	263.1	266.6	274.6	275.6
	Scissors and tailors' shears	251.6	251.6	257.3	268.8	268.8
	Spoons and forks	272.6	275.4	281.2	287.0	294.3
	Spoons and forks, silver plated	319.2	327.3	331.8	341.2	353.3
	Spoons and forks, stainless steel	245.9	247.9	249.6	257.1	266.3
393	Nuts and bolts, etc	283.8	317.2	317.2	317.2	327.4
	High tensile steel nuts and bolts	302.6	335.2	335.2	335.4	345.7
394	Wire and wire manufactures	243.8	247.5	246.6	250.2	252.1
	Wire and wire manufactures of iron and steel	277.0	281.1	281.4	283.5	283.7
	Iron and steel wire, single stranded	308.5	314.6	314.6	314.6	314.6
	Iron and steel wire, single-bright	308.3	314.1	314.1	314.1	314.1
	Iron and steel wire, galvanised	309.3	316.9	316.9	316.9	316.9
	Wire rope	248.6	251.3	254.1	263.0	263.0
	Wire netting	252.3	259.2	259.2	263.1	263.1
	Chain link fencing	229.8	230.4	230.4	234.2	234.2

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p
	Reinforcement fabric	222.2	223.1	223.1	223.1	223.1
	Wire and wire manufactures of brass and bronze	174.3	178.0	175.4	178.6	186.2
	Brass and bronze woven wire cloth, etc	222.9	226.5	226.4	226.4	226.2
	Wire and wire manufactures of copper	147.8	147.2	141.2	148.9	153.9
	Copper wire in coils H.C. wire, 3.15mm*	147.0	146.4	140.4	148.2	153.3
	Woven copper wire	218.2	221.6	221.6	221.6	221.6
395	Small metal boxes and containers	273.2	273.2	273.2	273.2	273.2
396	Silver bullion*	347.6	360.0	348.6	344.3	357.1
399/1	Metal storage cupboards, lockers, shelving and racking	232.3	242.3	246.3	246.3	248.3
	Kitchen and bathroom furniture	190.6	198.3	198.3	201.0	207.8
399/6	Domestic hollow-ware	227.3	227.3	227.3	245.9	247.7
	Domestic hollow-ware – aluminium	218.1	218.1	218.1	235.6	238.6
399/7	Industrial hollow-ware	252.8	261.5	261.5	264.5	264.5
	Steel drums	259.0	269.5	269.5	273.1	273.1
399/8	Slide and zip fasteners of metal	217.6	217.7	231.9	244.3	244.4
399/12	Metal furnishings for doors and windows	241.8	242.0	245.8	248.1	250.7
	Fire extinguishing apparatus (hand operated, chemical)	195.7	208.3	209.0	209.0	209.0
412	Spinning and doubling on the cotton and flax systems	242.4	244.3	245.7	243.1 p	245.1
	Cotton yarns	346.0	350.2	348.5	337.0 p	339.4
	Cotton-spun mixture yarns of cotton and man-made fibres	184.9	188.3	190.4	191.4	196.5
	Cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns	216.1	215.2	220.7	221.6 p	223.1
	Cotton-spun regenerated man-made fibre yarns	246.6	248.9	256.4	256.1	258.7
	Processed yarns of man-made fibres	137.9	139.5	139.9	143.1	144.0
	Spun yarns of flax and man-made fibres	271.7	275.8	276.0	281.3	287.6
	Flax-spun yarns of man-made fibres	194.5	196.7	198.5	201.5	201.5
413	Weaving of cotton, linen and man-made fibres	233.9	237.1	239.7	246.6	249.4
	Tyre cord fabric	209.2	209.4	209.4	224.6	225.5
	Other plain cloths (grey), tea towelling, cleaning and dishcloths	246.3	253.1	257.6	257.7	264.5
	Woven linen in the loomstate	290.9	292.8	292.9	309.5	313.5
	Heavy linen	317.5	317.7	317.9	320.9	323.3
	Woven fabric of glass fibre	243.9	262.3	262.3	264.7	264.7
	Woven cloth of glass fibre – except insulation fabric	243.1	262.5	262.5	265.1	265.1
414	Woollen and worsted	261.5	268.5	269.7	277.3	279.5
414/1	Wool tops*	355.2	359.0	343.7	349.2	339.2
414/2	Worsted spinning	246.2	252.4	253.5	263.5	264.9
	Yarns of man-made fibres spun on the worsted system	196.6	198.1	199.4	201.5	203.8
414/3	Woven worsted fabrics	257.4	267.5	269.0	278.2	279.5
414/4	Wool rag*	266.0	281.6	291.9	293.6	306.1
414/5	Woven woollen fabrics	271.6	280.6	282.3	285.6	290.3
	Other woven woollen fabrics	277.3	289.5	291.8	293.0	299.3
	Yarns spun on the woollen system	283.5	283.2	284.4	289.2	290.3
414/6	Pressed wool felt	280.0	280.0	280.0	315.3	316.4
415	Spinning and weaving of jute and other yarns on the jute system	229.2	229.8	230.9	237.8	237.9
	Spun yarns of jute and man-made fibres	209.2	209.9	212.1	224.2	224.4
416	Rope, twine and net	253.8	255.6	255.6	271.3	271.5
	Cordage, cables, ropes and twine of textile materials	257.3	259.2	259.2	274.8	275.0
	Nets and netting	206.2	206.8	206.8	224.4	224.4
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods – hose	149.3	149.9	149.9	154.8	159.6
	Men's hose	171.6	173.6	173.6	184.5	188.0
	Women's hose	156.6	156.6	156.6	159.1	165.0
	Children's hose	176.7	180.0	180.0	196.1	196.1
	Panti-hose, etc	120.2	120.2	120.2	122.6	127.6
	Hosiery and other knitted goods – underwear	214.2	220.1	224.6	232.6	234.0
	Men's knitted underwear	221.6	222.5	223.9	241.5	245.0
	Men's knitted underwear, man-made fibres and mixtures of natural and man-made fibres	217.9	217.9	217.9	224.4	230.1
	Women's knitted underwear	210.0	215.6	225.3	227.8	227.8
	Children's and infants' knitted underwear	209.4	224.2	224.2	226.7	227.4
	Children's and infants' knitted underwear – cotton	205.8	219.7	219.7	222.5	222.5
	Hosiery and other knitted goods – knitted outerwear	174.0	174.6	175.3	195.6	199.1
	Knitted headgear and scarves	254.7	256.0	256.9	262.1	262.1
	Knitted fabrics	175.6	177.4	176.8	185.5	186.6
	Knitted fabrics, weft	190.5	192.6	190.9	203.6	205.6
	Knitted fabrics, warp	158.9	160.4	161.0	165.4	165.4
419	Axminster carpets	242.4	243.6	252.1	260.4	261.5
	Wilton carpets	246.1	246.4	257.0	268.6	269.9
	Rugs	235.5	239.5	239.5	239.5	254.6
421	Narrow fabrics	231.1	236.7	238.0	265.5 p	268.5
421/1	Elastic webs and cords	199.8	199.8	199.8	226.3	229.4
421/3	Non-elastic fabrics	250.7	257.8	259.7	291.1 p	294.3
	Petershams, galloons and ribbons	221.4	222.2	226.6	240.5	247.9
422	Made-up textiles	238.8	242.8	247.2	259.5	263.1
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs	238.9	241.8	245.9	261.2	265.7
	Bed linen – sheets and bedspreads	227.0	227.0	228.7	244.8	244.8
	Tea towels, cleaning and polishing cloths	273.9	277.9	281.6	282.9	295.2
422/2	Canvas sacks and bags and other made-up textiles	238.4	244.8	249.9	255.8	257.8
	Other made-up textiles of canvas, cotton, man-made fibres, etc	260.2	271.6	280.2	291.4	292.0
429	Other textile industries	206.6	207.3	208.2	218.2	221.4
429/1	Asbestos brake and clutch linings – replacement sales to factors	263.9	266.6	266.6	275.1	275.1
429/2	Hair, fibre and allied industries	187.0	188.3	190.7	194.8	201.7
	Needleloom felt and carpeting	189.9	192.2	192.8	200.2	202.3

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p
432	Travel goods	220.7	220.7	223.1	225.4	239.8
441	Weatherproof outerwear	184.3	185.7	186.1	191.6	192.0
442	Men's and boys' tailored outerwear	198.0	199.0	199.9	200.4	199.3
	Men's and youths' overcoats	157.7	157.7	157.7	157.7	157.7
	Men's and boys' suits	220.9	221.6	221.6	221.6	220.0
	Men's and boys' jackets	191.3	193.7	193.7	194.5	194.3
	Men's and boys' trousers	175.9	178.4	181.0	182.4	181.4
443	Women's and young girls' tailored outerwear	186.4	186.3	186.3	190.4 p	190.4
	Women's overcoats	190.8	189.5	189.5	190.8	190.8
	Women's suits, skirts and slacks – excluding jeans	184.1	185.6	185.6	193.5	193.5
444	Overalls and men's and boys' shirts	202.0	207.7	212.2	221.0	221.3
444/1	Heavy overalls, aprons and jeans	253.8	271.4	282.2	289.4	290.6
444/2	Men's and boys' shirts, nightwear, etc	182.1	183.3	185.4	194.7	194.7
	Men's and boys' shirts	177.6	178.8	179.7	188.6	188.6
	Men's and boys' shirts, woven fabric	185.9	186.6	188.4	196.0	196.0
	Men's and boys' shirts, knitted fabric	169.7	171.6	171.6	181.7	181.7
	Men's and boys' dressing gowns	196.9	201.0	203.8	211.2	211.2
445	Dresses, lingerie, infants' wear etc	167.7	168.1	168.4	175.7 p	176.2
445/1	Light outerwear	168.6	169.1	169.1	172.9	173.7
445/2	Lingerie	175.0	175.0	175.9	191.1	191.1
445/3	Infants' wear	151.6	151.6	151.6	160.5 p	160.5
449	Dress industries n.e.s.	193.5	193.6	193.6	204.1	207.2
449/1	Corsets, brassieres and swimwear	189.2	189.2	189.2	200.4	204.2
	Women's corsets	191.7	191.7	191.7	204.1	208.2
	Brassieres	182.9	182.9	182.9	195.8	200.3
	Swimwear	196.4	196.4	196.4	196.4	196.4
449/2	Gloves	232.5	233.3	233.3	242.8	243.9
	Fabric gloves	243.9	246.1	246.1	254.3	257.6
	Leather gloves	226.3	226.3	226.4	236.5	236.5
450	Boots and shoes with leather uppers	208.7	212.2	212.5	223.0	225.4
	Men's boots and shoes with leather uppers	229.7	231.9	232.9	248.7	255.2
	Women's shoes and bootees with leather uppers	200.6	202.7	202.7	211.9	212.3
	Boys', girls' and infants' boots and shoes with leather uppers	194.1	202.9	202.9	208.1	208.7
	Boots and shoes with uppers wholly or mainly of materials other than leather	180.9	181.1	181.6	189.5	194.3
	Slippers and indoor footwear	203.3	203.3	203.3	225.1	225.7
	Sandals	238.5	247.6	247.6	247.6	247.6
461	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	265.7	269.0	277.9	280.4	284.4
461/1	Basic bricks	287.4	287.4	318.4	321.5	321.5
	Fireclay refractories	232.7	232.7	247.3	247.3	251.4
461/2	Building bricks and clay partition blocks	272.1	278.3	281.3	283.7	289.9
	Facing bricks, fletton (delivered)	209.8	215.6	215.6	217.4	226.5
	Facing bricks, non-fletton (ex-works)	300.8	307.9	313.2	316.3	319.2
	Common building bricks fletton (delivered)	247.9	255.6	255.6	257.9	270.0
	Common building bricks, non-fletton (ex-works)	287.4	292.2	295.0	296.9	302.9
	Engineering bricks (ex-works)	286.0	290.5	296.6	298.8	301.7
	Non-refractory goods (other than bricks)	245.1	246.0	249.7	251.9	253.8
	Roofing tiles (ex-works)	307.9	308.6	332.3	351.7	351.7
	Fireclay sanitary ware	219.2	226.6	226.2	229.7	248.1
	Floor quarry tiles (ex-works)	213.9	213.9	228.9	237.0	237.2
	Building bricks (delivered)	277.8	282.4	283.2	287.8	296.5
462	Pottery	228.8	230.9	232.1	233.6	241.2
	Vitreous china sanitary ware and pottery tiles	208.2	214.3	215.0	216.1	231.4
	Vitreous china sanitary ware	227.3	236.1	236.1	238.6	259.5
	Pottery tiles	193.5	197.5	198.7	198.7	209.7
	Domestic earthenware	241.7	241.7	241.7	241.7	241.7
463	Glass	243.2	245.3	246.5	251.7	254.3
463/1	Glass (other than containers)	237.9	239.0	241.0	248.8	252.6
	Glass products (other than flat glass and containers)	244.3	245.4	246.5	255.3	257.3
	Scientific and machinery glassware (including tubing and rod)	245.3	245.8	250.4	251.1	253.2
	Illuminating glassware	220.1	220.1	220.1	237.8	238.4
	Domestic glassware	215.1	216.0	216.2	228.9	233.0
	Hand gathered domestic glassware	216.0	216.0	216.0	228.2	236.1
463/2	Glass containers, for the food processing industry	249.2	249.5	249.5	251.5	252.9
	Glass containers, other than for food processing industry	251.5	255.7	255.7	256.9	257.7
464	Cement	256.2	269.0	270.4	270.4	279.9
	Cement delivered in bags	256.2	270.2	271.7	271.7	280.1
469/1	Abrasives	239.1	241.7	246.0	257.7	260.7
	Abrasive papers and cloths	262.2	269.6	281.8	281.8	288.9
469/2	Building materials, n.e.s.	263.0	267.5	270.2	273.8	282.3
	Pitch fibre pipes	223.5	223.5	223.5	223.5	247.9
	Precast concrete building blocks (delivered)	252.2	253.5	254.7	263.0	269.0
	Precast concrete building blocks (ex-works)	225.7	227.3	228.9	235.7	239.4
	Precast concrete – flags and kerbs (delivered)	186.2	186.9	188.6	188.6	191.3
	Asbestos cement products	267.2	275.5	282.8	282.8	298.6
	Sandlime bricks	266.8	268.6	268.6	272.9	274.6
	Lime products	252.3	253.2	253.7	254.4	254.7
	Agricultural lime	263.2	263.2	268.1	268.1	268.1
	Hydrated lime for building and industry	262.0	263.7	264.3	265.6	266.1
	Plaster board	246.0	246.0	260.3	263.0	263.0
	Mastic asphalt	245.2	245.2	262.0	266.3	266.2
	Roofing felt	251.5	251.5	251.5	262.8	267.3
	Thermal insulation materials	247.5	251.0	251. 3	261.1	263.8
	Fencing	250.5	250.8	254.4	257.2	257.2
471/1	Homegrown hardwood: Ash – sawn	216.1	221.0	225.6	234.4	252.3

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb p
	Elm – sawn	206.0	210.0	218.7	218.7	222.4
	Beech – sawn	214.1	218.4	224.0	235.9	240.7
	Oak – sawn	303.7	304.2	310.1	318.0	326.3
	Pallet timber – sawn	262.2	262.2	264.6	269.4	269.4
471/2	Timber structures and structural components	283.6	290.7	300.8	314.9	320.1
	Door sets, doors and door frames (excluding hardwood doors architecturally designed)	294.5	297.6	298.5	317.2	325.1
	Windows and window frames (wood)	316.8	318.7	324.6	326.8	326.8
	Other building joinery (ie architectural and general joinery)	290.3	293.4	308.7	330.7	330.7
472	Non-upholstered furniture – domestic	223.6	228.5	231.4	237.2	241.5
	Two- and three-piece suites	192.7	198.9	199.9	201.0	208.5
	Fireside chairs, open wood arm easy chairs	223.7	223.7	223.7	235.9	247.1
475	Wooden containers	215.4	216.4	217.4	221.6	221.6
479	Miscellaneous wood and cork manufactures	248.9	254.6	257.9	263.9	266.7
479/3	Wood wool – including manufactures	291.5	299.9	302.8	303.3	303.3
481	Paper and board – other than building board	262.1	264.3	273.8	284.3	284.5
	Coated paper	247.5	249.5	254.0	268.2	268.3
	Coated paper – off machine	255.8	259.0	265.2	276.5	276.9
	Coated paper – on machine	234.7	235.0	236.8	255.3	255.3
	Printings and writings – including newsprint	272.3	273.6	285.6	303.4	303.7
	Kraft wrapping paper	260.5	263.5	283.8	286.9	286.9
	Other wrapping paper	257.9	258.1	261.7	261.7	261.7
	Household and other tissues – including cigarette tissues	259.1	271.7	287.2	294.9	294.9
	Industrial and special purpose papers	257.6	259.4	269.5	284.0	284.7
	Uncoated paper	264.9	267.4	278.8	290.9	291.2
	Uncoated board	263.2	264.7	271.0	274.6	274.6
	Packaging boards	267.9	268.4	275.3	278.0	278.0
	Boards for industrial and special purposes	250.1	254.2	259.0	265.2	265.2
	Coated board	266.5	269.1	282.8	289.9	290.0
482	Packaging products of paper, board and associated materials	270.2	275.2	276.5	280. 0	280.4
482/1	Cardboard boxes	244.7	252.3	252.3	254.6	256.5
	Cartons	264.2	270.9	272.3	282.0	283.2
	Cartons – food	258.4	268.8	268.8	275.3	275.8
	Cartons – other than for food	266.7	271.8	273.9	284.9	286.5
	Packing cases – fibreboard	269.4	269.4	269.4	269.1	269.0
	Packing cases – fibreboard – solid	269.8	269.8	269.8	269.5	269.4
	Packing cases – fibreboard – corrugated	269.3	269.3	269.3	269.1	268.9
482/2	Packaging products of paper and associated materials	285.6	295.7	299.4	302.1	302.0
	Paper sacks	292.2	316.7	316.7	317.5	317.5
	Paper sacks – food	290.0	314.9	314.9	316.4	316.4
	Paper sacks – other than for food	294.9	318.9	318.9	318.9	318.9
	Paper bags	310.8	312.6	315.7	318.9	318.7
483	Commercial envelopes	253.7	253.7	254.7	282.2	282.6
	Business forms	246.0	246.9	252.6	273.3	278.0
	Counter check books and forms for loose leaf binders	259.3	260.0	262.9	286.3	287.0
	Continuous stationery	252.6	253.5	260.2	281.1	286.9
	Stationery and scholastic books	259.0	259.0	270.3	284.9	286.4
	Loose leaf supplies	313.8	329.8	329.8	330.2	334.6
	Filing supplies	309.6	315.5	319.2	328.9	332.6
484	Manufactures of paper and board n.e.s.	247.3	249.6	256.0	262.0	262.4
484/2	Other manufactures of paper and board	255.3	258.4	267.7	272.3	272.9
	Cellulose paper products	244.4	249.5	255.3	259.4	259.7
	Doyleys	276.4	276.4	276.4	306.2	310.6
	Toilet paper	261.3	264.2	273.7	273.9	273.9
	Paper rolls and coils	243.3	243.3	252.3	266.3	268.3
491	Rubber manufactures	232.1	238.0	241.0	245.3	252.0
491/2	Rubber goods – other than tyres and tubes	248.4	252.6	257.8	266.2	271.9
	Hose of rubber or plastics	295.1	311.8	313.3	314.3	327.6
	Motor parts and accessories of rubber	261.5	262.3	262.3	278.3	281.1
	Machinery belting of rubber and plastics	347.9	348.9	359.4	378.9	382.1
	Miscellaneous rubber goods	195.4	195.7	208.4	211.5	212.7
493	Brushes and brooms	226.7	228.1	228.1	240.4	241.8
	Decorating brushes and rollers	213.5	217.4	217.4	219.7	221.6
	Toilet brushes	227.7	228.1	228.1	232.6	232.7
	Industrial brushes and polishing mops	223.5	223.5	223.5	265.1	265.4
	Household brushes and brooms	238.9	238.9	238.9	253.7	255.6
494	Toys, games, baby carriages and sports equipment	229.7	229.8	230.0	244.4	253.2
494/1	Toys and games	238.2	238.3	238.3	254.7	266.2
	Metal toys	270.9	270.9	270.9	300.8	302.9
	Metal toys – non-mechanical	273.0	273.0	273.0	304.2	305.4
	Dolls and soft toys	220.9	220.9	220.9	253.0	253.0
	Indoor games	202.9	202.9	202.9	225.0	225.1
	Plastics toys	210.6	211.0	211.0	218.5	233.8
	Pedal cars, scooters, toy perambulators and children's tricycles and bicycles	273.6	273.6	273.6	273.9	307.6
	Pedal cars and scooters	256.0	256.0	256.0	256.9	288.6
	Toy perambulators	272.5	272.5	272.5	272.5	316.6
494/2	Perambulators, folding baby carriages and pushchairs	227.2	227.2	229.7	241.1	243.9
	Perambulators	225.6	225.6	228.4	247.6	250.3
	Folding baby carriages	231.9	231.9	234.7	243.2	243.2
	Push chairs	221.4	221.4	223.1	227.5	235.4
494/3	Sports equipment	203.3	203.3	203.3	212.3	215.3
495	Miscellaneous stationers' goods	193.1	193.6	200.1	203.6	205.1
495/1	Pencils – non-mechanical	254.5	254.5	254.5	254.5	254.5
495/2	Stationers' goods – other than pens and pencils	203.7	204.2	211.0	212.5	215.0
496	Plastics products n.e.s.	215.9	219.4	222.4	226.5	230.5

TABLE (4a) (*continued*)

1968 SIC		1976 Oct	1976 Nov	1976 Dec	1977 Jan	1977 Feb p
	Plastics products – other than components, accessories and semi-manufactured goods	219.0	223.2	226.6	231.1	233.2
	Building materials of plastics	242.0	252.0	255.6	256.7	259.4
	Water services' pipes and fittments of plastics	268.8	274.4	279.4	279.8	279.8
	Other piping and fittings – drainage, effluent etc	236.0	247.3	250.5	250.5	250.5
	Builders' hardware of plastics	234.5	244.7	247.8	250.5	254.8
	Domestic, catering and furnishing goods of plastics	204.8	207.6	208.7	217.4	217.4
	Hollow-ware and hardware of plastics – including kitchenware	199.3	203.1	204.6	212.4	212.4
	Plastics dress fasteners	189.8	189.8	202.8	212.2	213.1
	Plastics sleeving	205.8	207.8	207.8	207.8	207.8
	Packaging materials of plastics	220.9	224.2	224.2	230.2	230.2
	Plastics caps, closures, bottles and jars	223.4	228.8	228.8	236.2	236.2
	Plastics foam-upholstery, cushioning and floor covering	213.5	217.7	231.5	231.5	232.6
499/1	Musical instruments	217.0	217.0	217.0	244.7	248.1
	Pianos	251.3	251.3	251.3	274.2	282.9

Revisions to Table 4(a)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Building materials n.e.s.	227.5	233.4	234.3	237.8	246.3	248.0	252.1	—	—	—	—	—	1976
Roofing felt	215.8	220.1	220.1	220.1	220.1	—	—	—	—				1976
Aluminium slate, sheet, and strip	177.6	176.4	177.5	179.9	180.2	192.8	202.2	213.3	221.0	—	—	—	1976

TABLE 4(b) Supplementary list of commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom (as published April, August and December)

1970 = 100

	1976 Oct	1976 Nov	1976 Dec	1977 Jan	1977 Feb p
Crude oil⌀	785.6	817.8	821.5	822.0 p	840.3
Imported paper and paperboard (including newsprint)*	289.7	295.4	293.8	333.6	328.3
Imported paper and paperboard (excluding newsprint)*	287.1	294.1	292.1	330.1	325.6
Imported newsprint	301.0	301.0	301.0	348.4	340.1
Timber, imported:					
Mahogany	339.9	344.8	344.7	346.9	348.9
Utile	400.2	410.0	413.8	419.2	430.0
Beech	291.1	293.4	304.5	306.0	322.9
Ramin	373.6	375.6	373.6	365.9	366.8
Meranti	282.2	281.7	285.3	284.2	275.9
Quicksilver, min. 99.99%, cif Europe*	35.6	35.9	36.8	46.0	57.9
Asbestos, Canadian, fob Quebec*	314.3	311.5	293.1	330.0	325.6
Iron ore, imported	288.7	285.3 p	281.8 p	276.5 p	279.0
Bauxite, Min. 86% $A_2I\ O_3$*	313.2	313.2	313.2	313.2	313.2
Manganese ore 48-50%, Mn grade, max. 0.1%P, cif Europe*	411.7	411.7	402.6	393.8	393.2
Tungsten ore, min. 65%, cif Europe*	242.2	269.4	268.8	266.0	312.8
Phosphate rock	414.3	415.5	415.6	370.8	370.7
Phosphate rock for fertiliser manufacture	433.8	435.3	435.5	374.5	374.5
Hides and skins:					
Native	380.4	346.0	374.9	413.1	425.8
Imported	312.1	310.0	324.2	346.0	344.5
Imported, wet	262.5	267.3	288.0	317.2	208.8
Imported, dry	309.5	318.7	309.5	309.5	309.5
Raw silk	209.7	221.8	217.7	211.9	210.9
Raw jute:					
BWD grade, c and f Dundee*	132.0	136.5	133.7	135.7	139.7
BWC grade, c and f Dundee*	162.0	167.2	163.7	165.5	170.1
BTC grade, c and f Dundee*	161.9	165.9	163.1	165.4	169.5
BTD grade, c and f Dundee*	163.5	168.3	165.4	167.9	172.3
Flax, imported	403.3	420.0	442.9	444.5	445.0
Sisal	513.9	541.2	532.0	527.3	510.8
Cotton, rags, home produced	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6
Waste paper, home produced	231.5	231.5	231.5	231.5	252.5
Gum arabic, Kordofan, ex-wharf London*	304.2	309.3	311.2	301.1	293.7
Rosin gum, WW Portuguese*	202.4	208.0	208.0	208.0	206.4
Woodpulp, imported:					
For use in paper and boardmaking industries	369.0	369.1	362.4	353.2	354.1
Chemical	358.0	357.5	350.2	342.3	343.1
Sulphite bleached	357.3	356.8	349.4	341.5	342.3
Sulphate bleached and semi-bleached	351.5	351.0	343.9	336.1	336.9
Sulphate unbleached, kraft	390.0	389.4	381.3	372.8	373.7
Wood rosin, American FF*	258.6	258.6	258.6	258.6	258.6
Castor oil, Brazilian no. 1 grade*	379.7	381.8	390.7	383.3	395.2
Soya beans, US no. 2 grade, cif UK*	300.0	317.7	329.7	330.1	342.5
Linseed, Canadian no. 1, cif UK*	382.8	390.7	352.7	358.0	360.4
Copra, Philippine, cif Europe*	215.7	233.8	245.1	238.6	248.4
Palm, kernels, Nigerian, cif basis-ports*	225.9	251.6	258.0	263.7	264.1
Olive oil, Spanish, edible max. 1% ffa*	429.4	429.4	429.4	432.1	434.4
Fish oil, cif, east coast UK*	257.3	254.0	244.8	239.5	250.7
Palm oil, crude, London, spot price*	277.1	289.4	263.6	271.5	296.1
Linseed oil, cif London/Hull*	253.8	355.3	322.0	334.9	325.8
Coconut oil, cif Europe*	207.3	217.2	235.5	229.4	240.8
Groundnut oil, London, spot price*	317.4	338.3	326.8	343.6	355.3
Lemongrass oil, Cochin, spot price*	249.5	241.8	235.2	231.5	207.8
Citronella oil, Sri Lanka, spot price*	138.8	139.5	139.5	142.1	196.3
Lime oil, West Indian distilled, spot price*	181.3	181.3	181.3	181.3	181.3
Clove oil, Madagascan crude, spot price*	174.6	178.2	178.2	183.1	198.2
Sandalwood oil, Indian, spot price*	178.5	187.7	183.6	166.9	166.9
Peppermint oil*	203.7	213.3	221.1	218.8	217.1
Geranium oil, Bourbon, spot price*	270.1	270.1	270.1	270.9	271.3
Eucalyptus oil, Portuguese, spot price*	106.6	106.6	106.6	106.6	103.5

⌀ Based on unit value of imports at their time of entry.
* Source of price information: trade publications.
p provisional.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices[1]

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities											
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals			Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (2)		
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	213	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	281	338	256
2nd quarter	310	412	289	212	282	198	135	179	126	286	381	267
3rd quarter	314	427	291	228	310	212	140	190	130	291	395	270
4th quarter (3)	315	458	289	232	337	213	131	190	120	290	422	267
1977 *1st quarter (4)*	*345*	*483*	*315*	*244*	*341*	*222*	*147*	*206*	*134*	*318*	*446*	*290*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

New companies registered in March

Details are given below of new companies registered in Great Britain during March 1977 showing nominal capital. The figures exclude unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Companies registered in Great Britain

March 1977

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	3,798	—	3,798
Over £100 but under £1,000	67	—	67
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,250	—	1,250
£10,000 but under £50,000	520	—	520
£50,000 but under £100,000	91	—	91
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	109	—	109
£1,000,000 and over	8	—	8
Total number	5,843	—	5,843
	£ thous	£ thous	£ thous
Total amount of nominal capital	49,266	—	49,266

1976 and 1977

	1976		1977	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3,476	21,780	3,225	30,825
February	4,088	19,228	4,330	34,505
March	6,190	41,680	5,843	49,266
April	4,150	22,354		
May	5,343	25,095		
June	5,624	25,815		
July	4,954	58,659		
August	4,221	44,690		
September	4,377	25,342		
October	4,600	34,544		
November	4,667	60,549		
December	4,655	147,053		
Total	55,345	526,789		

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(a) annually (m) monthly (q) quarterly

Air transport: trade by air (a) 16 Jul 76
Balance of payments
current account (m) This week
trends in invisible transactions 22 Oct 76
see also Overseas trade of the UK
Business names and limited partnerships (a) 18 Feb 77
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (q) 1 Apr 77
by regions 18 Feb 77
Catering trades turnover (q) 18 Feb 77
Census of production (a) 28 Jan 77
Chemicals industry activity (q) 1 Apr 77
Companies
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liquidity (q) 11 Mar 77
new registrations:
Gt. Britain (m) This week
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rate of return on capital (a) 8 Oct 76
structure of company financing 4 Feb 77
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Energy trends (m) 4 Mar 77
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British Film Fund Agency returns (m) 8 Apr 77
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